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4-H IN ALBERTA

1917-1967

by
E. B. SWINDLEHURST

HON. R. C. CLARK
Minister of Youth



C. L. USHER
Deputy Minister

COMPLIMENTS

of the

4-H & JUNIOR FOREST WARDEN BRANCH

ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH

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FOREWORD

Fifty years is a relatively short time, as far as history is concerned. Yet Boys and Girls Clubs and their successors, 4-H Clubs, have had considerable influence on Alberta's development during this period of time. Not only have many members, parents and friends benefited by learning new skills and knowledge, but attitudes have been shaped as well.

Staff of the Alberta Department of Agriculture deserve most of the credit for initiating Club work and for providing professional guidance and advice for the past 50 years. Leaders, advisory committees, parents and other interested people, as well as senior members, have all played a part in ensuring that club members participated in a top-quality programme.

This book recounts some of the history of the movement. It is evident that there has been much change. For example, there were no club leaders initially. Today, leaders accept considerable responsibility and share in much of the decision-making concerning 4-H policy and activities. Likewise, the learning experience of 4-H members now extends far beyond the project, and includes the broad general areas of citizenship and leadership.

When the decision was made to record the history of 50 years of Club work in Alberta, it was natural to contact Edward B. Swindlehurst. As a long-time employee of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, Mr. Swindlehurst was familiar with many of the pioneers in 4-H. Furthermore, he had previously completed two similar books, a History of Alberta's Schools of Agriculture and a Historical Review of Alberta Agriculture. It was apparent, therefore, that Ed Swindlehurst was the logical choice. The book is evidence of his knowledge and talent.

THE HON. R. C. CLARK,
Minister of Youth.



Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Elliott

4-H IN ALBERTA

HOW THEY BEGAN

The first report of a Junior Club in Alberta is that of Mr. Elliott's Pig Club in 1917. Mr. W. J. Elliott, then Principal of the School of Agriculture at Olds, had in 1916 introduced agriculture into a number of rural schools in Alberta. The government supplied free vegetable and flower seeds and a limited number of eggs, and the boys in addition were to raise calves, break colts, etc. The girls engaged in sewing and baking for exhibition, and a boys' and girls' fair was held in the fall when vegetables, flowers, cooking, baking and livestock were shown.

Olds was not the only place where this school fair work was undertaken, since responsibility of the agricultural agents, introduced into the Department of Agriculture that year (1916), was encouragement and supervision of the agricultural projects in the schools.

But to Mr. Elliott must be given credit for that first Junior Club in Alberta — the Pig Club. "Organization of the boys' and girls' pig club in connection with School Fairs was perfected this year", he reports. And he tells how the Bank of Commerce through the enthusiasm of the Manager, Mr. R. N. Aylward, furnished loans to the youngsters for this purpose.

The bank provided \$30.00 for each boy or girl to buy two small registered sows. The notes carried interest charges of 8 per cent, but 6 per cent of this was returned by the bank to provide prizes at the fall fair. The arrangement was that around December 31, 1917, the boy or girl should sell one of the sows and pay back the loan. But the bank was so pleased with the way the project developed that they decided to carry the notes over so that all who wished might retain both sows.

And Mr. Elliott was looking ahead. These clubs were to be no passing phase. Boars were secured so that litters of pigs could be raised the following spring. "The boys and girls will thus be in a position to supply choice sows to other clubs that may be started during 1918", he said. But in Mr. Elliott's estimation the main thing was that the boys and girls had received first class

livestock of their own, and naturally they were both proud and happy. Managers of Bank of Commerce branches at Granum and Stony Plain also became interested, and before the year was out pig clubs were flourishing in these districts as well.

It was a great idea, and the Alberta Department of Agriculture thought so too. In 1918, Deputy Minister H. A. Craig authorized Mr. Elliott to take in hand organization of pig clubs throughout the Province. Organization meetings were held, and by the end of the year, in addition to the three clubs mentioned, we had enthusiastic pig club members at Vermilion, Camrose, Red Deer, Eckville, Crossfield, Warner, Claresholm, Acme, Provost, Stavelly, High River and Vulcan; all the members receiving bank loans to assist in their activities.

Mr. Elliott resigned in 1919 to work with the United Grain Growers in Calgary, and did not return to the Department until 1924 when he accepted the position of Principal at the Vermilion School of Agriculture. Only one pig club was mentioned in the annual report of the Olds School of Agriculture in 1919. Mr. Holeton held an organization meeting at Bowden at the request of Mr. F. H. Clark of the Union Bank and a pig club was organized at Bowden as a result. Loans were made to members by the Union Bank and 70 pigs were bought. Among them were 19 Berkshires, 18 Poland Chinas, 8 Duroc Jerseys, and 4 Yorkshires. The remaining 21 were Grades. What was to become Alberta's most popular breed were then in the minority.

In the Department of Agriculture reports for the next couple of years, pig club work is mentioned as taking up some of the time of the staff, but no details are given. But by 1923, interest in Junior Clubs was gaining strength. In that year maintenance and encouragement became the responsibility of the Livestock Branch under Livestock Commissioner S. G. Carlyle, and we find the newly appointed supervisor of pig clubs, L. T. Chapman, submitting his first annual report of boys' and girls' club activities.

There were fourteen swine clubs in Alberta that year with a total membership of 286 girls and boys. Swine club members showed their hogs at school fairs and took part in judging competitions. The three highest scoring members then repre-

sented their club in inter-club competitions at Calgary and Edmonton.

Three silver medals from the Alberta Swine Breeders Association for the highest scoring team in the inter-club swine judging competition went to the Olds team. Wilber La Marsh, a member of that team, won the gold watch for the highest scoring individual. That was in Calgary. At Edmonton, the Sedgewick Club were winners of the three silver medals, while Kermit Schultz of the Sturgeon Club was highest scoring individual. It was in this year, 1923, that a swine club record book is first mentioned as being prepared and distributed so that members could readily record cost of raising the pigs and gains made. The best gain recorded that year was 241 pounds in 110 days for two hogs immediately before marketing; an average of slightly less than 2.2 pounds a day.

It was in 1923 too, that a boys' and girls' calf club was organized in the Lethbridge district. District Agricultural Representative M. L. Freng reported that the 28 members, boys and girls, were supplied with calves of good beef conformation. They started feeding on January 1, 1924, showed the calves at the Lethbridge Exhibition in August, and the calves were then auctioned off as baby beef.

In 1924, Mr. Chapman resigned to become livestock assistant at the Lacombe Experimental Farm. He was later engaged in farm journalism and in 1947 became Associate Farm Editor for the Family Herald and Weekly Star. No immediate replacement was made by the Department, but the staff of the livestock branch continued supervision of the swine clubs along with their other duties. Two new clubs were organized, one by District Agriculturist A. R. Judson at Grande Prairie and the other by F. H. Newcombe, District Agriculturist at Vegreville. In 1949, Mr. Newcombe was appointed Director of Extension for the Alberta Department of Agriculture, and remained in that position until his retirement on superannuation in 1959.

NEW VENTURE

The year 1924 saw a new venture in club activities, with club members on their way to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair at Toronto. On November 21 of that year, Mr. Newcombe was writing from Toronto to the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. George Hoadley, as follows:

Confirming my wire of yesterday's date I have to report that the Vegreville Swine Club team of two boys, Albert Jones and Peter Wyllie — who won the Provincial competition — have been successful in winning the grand championship trophy of the Canadian National Railway here. The competitions were carried on yesterday under the direction of the railway officials. The Vegreville boys scored 45 points out of a possible 50 for their demonstration on the bacon hog industry. Saskatchewan and Manitoba were 22 and 19 respectively in this department. In the hog judging our boys made a score of 243 out of a possible 250 points, giving them a nice lead in the total in which they stood 265 out of 300. The standing of the teams was as follows: Alberta 1, Saskatchewan 3, Manitoba 2. . . .

The trips to Toronto were in those days made possible by courtesy of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways. The Canadian National started these trips to the Royal in 1924, and in 1925 the C.P.R. provided a similar service for the winning team along their lines.

Assistance was asked of the Alberta Department of Agriculture by both railways in training of teams among swine club members along their lines. The winning team under the provincial competitions was to be given a free trip to the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto where they would enter into competition with the other prairie provinces. It was under this arrangement that the winning team from Vegreville carried off the honours. "As winners of the Canadian National Railways competition for Alberta, the Vegreville swine club team went to the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto in charge of the railway and attended by their trainer", Mr. Newcombe advised.

In 1925, another Wyllie was among the winners. The team from Vegreville that year was James Wyllie and Clifford Lynn.

And in 1930 their brother Robert Wyllie and Bill Schmidt were the top Canada team.

The importance of this railway assistance was mentioned many years later by T. P. Devlin, Chief Agricultural Officer of the Canadian National Railways at Winnipeg. "With awards and trophies offered by the C.N.R. for these annual competitions", he said, "together with train trips and all other expenses paid to and from Toronto, the Club movement received its greatest impetus during those formative years. In fact, it was the continued expansion of these competitions and the financial support given by the C.N.R. at that time, which led directly to nationalization of the Club movement in Canada".

We might mention here that Mr. Devlin was a member of that first University of Alberta stock judging team to the Royal in 1924, that brought back with them the coveted Macdonald trophy. Other members of the team were C. K. Johns, W. Gentleman, J. M. McAra and L. B. Thomson.

It all started back in 1921 when a conference of importance to the Canadian swine industry got under way in Ottawa. Producers, packers, railway officials and officials of the Dominion and Provincial Governments got together to discuss the possibility of having hogs bought and sold on grade and having a premium paid for select bacon hogs. The packers agreed to buy on a grade basis, to pay a premium for select bacon hogs and to submit to a referee any dispute arising between buyer and seller with respect to grade.

Then in the fall of 1922, the Dominion Government formulated its National Bacon Hog Policy, and Canada entered the field of bacon hog production in a serious way. The bacon hog had been produced in many parts of Canada, particularly in Ontario, but it was not until this time that a united effort was made to make the bacon hog a national type.

In 1924, with a view to encouraging production of bacon hogs, the C.N.R. arranged to supply transportation with expenses to the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto to the winning team of two swine club members from points along C.N.R. lines in each of the three prairie provinces; and there provided for these teams

an inter-provincial competition in swine judging and care and management demonstration.

In that year, this special trip to Toronto was provided by the C.N.R. only, Mr. Devlin reports, and it was at this first C.N.R. competition at the Royal Winter Fair in 1924 that Peter Wyllie and Albert Jones of the Vegreville club walked away with the trophy.

In 1925, the C.P.R. entered the lists to provide a similar prize for the winning team in each province along the C.P.R. lines. Winning teams along the C.P.R. lines in each of the three prairie provinces, while going down to Toronto as guests of the C.P.R. did not take part in the C.N.R. competition, or at that time in any other competition at the Royal. They were guests of the Company and visitors to the show.

A cup, however, was presented in 1924 by the C.P.R. to the winning team along its lines in each of the three prairie provinces. That at least was the idea. But strange to say, the team that walked off with the C.P.R. cup in Alberta that year was from a C.N.R. point; the Wyllie-Jones team from Vegreville.

For some reason, Mr. Wyllie relates, the Vegreville team won not only the C.N.R. cup to which they were entitled, but they received the C.P.R. cup too. That was the only time in the history of Junior Clubs in this province that the Alberta cups from both C.P.R. and C.N.R. were won by the same team. Next year, the C.N.R. cup was awarded to the team from a C.N.R. point, and the C.P.R. cup to the winning team along the C.P.R. lines. Mr. Wyllie can still proudly show the medals from both the C.N.R. and C.P.R. that were presented to him on the same occasion.

He told how in those early days of the clubs, the district agriculturist was the only one who had a car. "We went to our junior club activities on bikes, foot, horseback, or with team and democrat", he recalls. "When I returned from the Provincial finals I walked home the twelve miles from the train in the middle of the night. There were no phones and my people didn't know I was coming. I just followed the sleigh track in the dark".

The club was formed with enough members to market a carload of bacon hogs. And when the competition was held in Edmonton there were three sections to the judging — on a carlot basis, on the best pair of bacon hogs exhibited by a junior club member, and on the best single. In 1925 the first prize for the single was won by a Yorkshire gilt raised by Henry Bjorkeland of Red Deer.

“We always went to Edmonton for the finals”, Mr. Wyllie said. “We had to go to the University for the judging finals of the teams, and it was there that we competed for the honour of going east. The barn where we did our judging was where the Colonel Mewburn Hospital is now. We got off the street car and walked three blocks to the barn.

“When we went east”, he continued, “we stopped in Saskatoon to pick up the Saskatchewan contingent. But we went a day earlier so that we could do a day’s practice judging at the University of Saskatchewan and meet the Saskatchewan team.”

“When we got down to Toronto, the hogs we judged there had been judged by the University team the day before. The Alberta representatives were Devlin, Johns, Gentleman, Thomson and McAra who took the honours; but we felt more than a little proud when somebody said that our junior club team from Alberta had outjudged the University team”.

Remembered too in connection with those early swine teams is the name of Dr. R. D. Sinclair, who at that time was Assistant Professor of Animal Husbandry at the University of Alberta. Well known for his interest in young people and in good livestock, it was Dr. Sinclair who judged many of the early swine teams at the provincial contests in preparation for the trips east. In the 1930’s and 1940’s too, he was often called on for judging at the swine club achievement days.

PROGRESS

In 1926, the Vegreville team again won the C.N.R. trip to Toronto. They were Edward and Leonard Chappel. Representing teams along the C.P.R. lines were Walter Kobitsch and George Matthews of the Hardisty club. Supervisor of Boys' and Girls' Swine Clubs for Alberta that year was J. W. Howe, Instructor in Dairying at the Claresholm School of Agriculture.

In 1923, we find the Livestock Commissioner, S. G. Carlyle, reporting for the district agriculturists, and making special mention of the good work being done by H. W. Scott in the Sedgewick district in organizing pig clubs and school fairs.

Then in 1924, the district agriculturists are reporting for themselves, and the interest of both Mr. Scott at Sedgewick and of F. H. Newcombe at Vegreville in young people's activities shows clearly. Mr. Newcombe had been in the Vegreville district only one year, having been appointed as district agriculturist on December 1, 1923. But he was already pointing out some of the weaknesses and suggesting changes in work with the boys and girls of his district.

Boys and girls were showing articles at school fairs that did not truly represent their own effort, he noted. There was lack of proper appreciation by parents of school fair objectives, there was no real constructive program looking to definite improvement in farm produce in the district, and boys who had left school but were still under 21 were not attracted to school fair activities, considering them childish.

In the process of reorganization, members were limited to not more than two agricultural projects to prevent over-ambitious children from attempting too much. Ownership of the exhibits was encouraged, and made possible in the case of livestock through co-operation of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Quality rather than quantity was made the goal. The old system of showing parents' grain at the school fairs was abolished, and each member took enough registered wheat, oats, or barley to seed approximately one acre of land. This was sown on clean summerfallow and through the summer members were given instruction in roguing and caring for the plot. Thirty boys and

girls took part in this and produced enough high quality Marquis wheat to seed 300 acres in 1925. Here, at least, was something that savoured of a grain club.

In the meantime, H. W. Scott down at Sedgewick was busy looking after his school fairs, swine clubs, and other activities of interest to the boys and girls. Among them were public speaking contests, conducted by ten school fair associations, in which 81 pupils gave addresses. The purpose of these contests was to establish confidence and freedom of speech in the girls and boys when appearing before large gatherings.

Boys and girls from the Sedgewick district were exhibiting at Calgary and Edmonton fat stock shows. Ellen Price of Loughheed took the championship with her calf at both Calgary and Edmonton. Arrangements were made for a local baby beef competition to be held at Hardisty just prior to the Edmonton Spring Show, and the local people provided prize money towards the event. The first lamb club in the province was organized in the fall of 1924 at Camrose; and a Junior Farmers' Club was organized during the winter, which for two months met weekly to discuss farm problems. The members were mostly young men who had left school.

"The season of 1926 proved a very successful one for boys' and girls' swine clubs", wrote Supervisor J. W. Howe in his report for that year. He reported a considerable increase in the number of clubs organized over 1925. He spoke of the difficulty of many of the clubs in obtaining suitable pigs for their club work. This had come about through high demand for bacon on the Calgary and Edmonton markets during April and May and the consequent high prices being paid for feeder pigs. Judging competitions were held and the three highest scoring members were chosen to represent the club in the judging competition at the Boys' and Girls' Swine Show held in Edmonton. These inter-club competitions at Edmonton and Calgary are mentioned by Live-stock Commissioner S. G. Carlyle in his annual report on Boys' and Girls' Pig Clubs in 1923, in which he says that the first annual girls' and boys' swine club show at Edmonton was held on December 5 and 6.

The district agriculturists on whom responsibility for encouragement and supervision of these junior activities rested were very active in the endeavour in 1926, although by that time they were giving considerable attention to adult farmer needs.

From Grande Prairie, A. R. Judson was reporting two swine clubs in operation; the one at Grande Prairie continuing and another started at Spirit River. The Tamworth club at Spirit River had been organized with the assistance of Messrs. A. J. Marple and J. A. McArthur. "These clubs are an influence in the district and in the production of more and better bacon hogs," said Mr. Judson. "The district agriculturist has had numerous requests for breeding stock of both sexes. Some of this stock has been supplied by swine club members, some by other local breeders, while some shipments have been made from the Edmonton district. The bacon hog is becoming a fixture".

School fairs, public speaking contests, swine clubs and dairy cattle judging were now occupying the time of Mr. Scott at Sedgewick, and all were making satisfactory progress. Their value, Mr. Scott explained, was not only to those actually engaged in the work but to the whole community. In spite of bad roads and poor weather, some 2,094 school pupils took part in the ten fairs in the Sedgewick area.

There were 8,359 exhibits in these school fairs in the proportion of about three exhibits in school work to five in the other classes. Each school fair association of his district had a boy and a girl at the short course held at Vermilion, and Mr. Scott noted that it was more difficult each year to win this scholarship, since it was so much appreciated and worked for. Ten school fair associations of the Sedgewick area held public speaking contests, at most of which A. E. Ottewell, Director of Extension, University of Alberta, acted as judge.

SCHOOL FAIRS AND THE CLUBS

These school fairs were among the earliest of Alberta Junior Activities. Preceding the first pig club by one year, fairs at rural schools adjacent to the Schools of Agriculture at Claresholm, Olds and Vermilion, were organized in 1916. Garden seeds, potatoes and eggs were distributed to the students of nineteen rural schools in each of the districts of Claresholm and Vermilion, and twenty-one schools in the Olds area.

The responsibility rested with the staffs of the Schools of Agriculture for supervision, and in this they received whole-hearted co-operation from the Department of Education through local inspectors and teachers. Through the Schools of Agriculture, the boys and girls were supplied with garden seeds, potatoes and eggs, and the products of these were exhibited at the school fairs, held in the first years at the Schools of Agriculture. As well as encouraging the children in the growing of gardens, livestock were fed by them and sewing and cooking were done by the girls.

The Schools of Agriculture closed their terms around the end of March, leaving the staff of young men and women who had been teaching agriculture and home economics free to organize and help with school fair work. They had the responsibility of sending out supplies — cards on which pressed plants might be mounted, insect pins, entry tags and so on. As soon as the dirt roads of those days were fit to travel, these men and women were out visiting the schools, instructing in the elements of agricultural and home science and arranging for judging days in circuits at which judges could be supplied. These judges included the school inspector, and in most cases two women judges for the home economics work.

Every two years a bulletin was issued, one to each family, covering all activities of the school fairs. These included topics from preparation of the garden to the baking of bread, and from manual training to the raising of livestock. In 1930, 50,000 copies were sent out, which by that time had grown from a few to 100 pages. The bulletin contained explicit instructions in the preparing, caring, handling, arranging and showing of all the exhibits seen at a school fair.

The objective behind all the school fairs was to instil in the minds of the young people the importance of doing things well. Not theory but practice was the objective — the objective later adopted by the junior and 4-H clubs of “learning by doing”.

The school fairs and the junior clubs ran side by side until in 1941 it was decided that the school fairs should be discontinued as an economy measure. The junior clubs, however, increased and continued popular. In the first place they were not dependent entirely on the Alberta Department of Agriculture for support, but had assistance and sponsorship from various sources.

Another point in their favour was thought to be the thoroughness with which the various projects were carried out. It was noted that in club work all the efforts of the boy or girl were devoted entirely to one project, ensuring careful work at every stage of the project. In the school fair, to secure the largest number of points, the attention of the pupil had to be fixed on many activities.

There is no doubt that the school fairs created a great deal of interest and did their share both towards the development of the young people and improvement of agriculture in the province. There were many who regretted the passing of this phase of junior activity. But by that time, the junior clubs were strongly entrenched and in spite of the war their progress continued until their influence stretched far beyond the bounds of province or country.

At the Provincial Swine Club Show in 1926, special recognition was given to the girls through the generosity of the James Ramsey Co., who provided a separate competition for the girls. First place was won by Mary Strachan and Harriet Bowler of Sedgewick, while Beatrice Saint and Selma Anderson of Bentley placed second. Third place went to Alice Whitelock and Evelyn Flynn of Czar, and fourth to Margaret Roper and Sybil Graves of Lacombe. Dairy cattle judging and demonstrations were held in connection with the Alberta Dairymen's Association Convention, and the children's calf feeding competitions at the Calgary and Edmonton Spring Shows were well supported.

The Hardisty Club that year won the Canadian Pacific Railway competition at the Swine Club Show held in Edmonton in November, and George Matthews and Walter Kobitzsch attended the Royal Agricultural Show in Toronto at the expense of the railway. They had been coached by H. W. Scott. Traveling to Toronto under the Canadian National Railways award were Edward and Leonard Chappel of Vegreville, coached by F. H. Newcombe. All these junior activities of those days took up part of a busy district agriculturist's time.

Messrs. L. Freng at Lethbridge and F. H. Newcombe at Vegreville were continuing their interest in junior activities, and while they didn't all come under the heading of boys' and girls' clubs, they were part of that early interest in young people that was later to gain such prominence from coast to coast as Canada's 4-H Clubs.

The Boys' and Girls' Calf Club at Lethbridge included nineteen members from the districts of Magrath, Raymond, Taber, Chin, Coaldale, Hardieville, Kipp and Lethbridge. Calves were carefully selected and turned over to members at \$20.00 each. The feeding competition started December 1st, and at the Lethbridge Fair held during the first week of July, the championship went to John R. Anderson of Raymond. The calves were then auctioned off and the champion calf brought 25 cents a pound. That was in 1926.

In the Vegreville district, Mr. Newcombe was having difficulty arousing enthusiasm for beef cattle and his efforts towards beef feeding were having less success than he had hoped for. Only four Vegreville calves were exhibited at Edmonton that year, and these stood 10th., 14th., 15th., and 45th. His work with dairy calves continued and his pig club endeavours continued productive as evidenced by the winning of the C.N.R. trip to Toronto noted above. This was the year that W. Pidruchney came in as assistant district agriculturist, with a view to serving the Ukrainian people of the area more effectively, and he too entered actively into the junior club work of the district.

Grain improvement work in the Vegreville area was confined largely to boys' and girls' activities. A club of fifteen members

was carried on in connection with the Vegreville School Fair, each member sowing one acre of registered first generation Marquis wheat or Victory oats. Mr. Newcombe reported that the general effect of the grain club over three years' operations had been to stimulate an interest in good, clean grain.

As well as learning by doing and promoting good citizenship, the influence on improvement of agricultural practices in their communities was something the early supervisors of Alberta boys' and girls' clubs kept constantly in mind. With today's intimacy among universities, departments of agriculture, farm



Farm Boys and Girls Camp, Vegreville Exhibition, in the mid 1930's.

organizations and the man on the land, this feature of 4-H club work is now less marked. Today's farmers are well acquainted with sources of information, and extension people are ready and eager to provide the information needed.

The first farm boys' camp to be held in Alberta was conducted by the Vegreville Exhibition Association in 1926. Guests of the Association during the fair days of August 5, 6, and 7, were thirteen boys from the area of Chipman to Minburn and between the Grand Trunk Railway and the river. They were chiefly members of the Swine Clubs of the area. Instruction at the camp was given by the Vegreville district agriculturists in judging hogs, beef cattle and dairy cattle, with swine receiving the most attention. The Exhibition Association awarded prizes for general proficiency in the work covered.

Reporting on swine club activities in 1928, Livestock Commissioner S. G. Carlyle said: "From past experience, it would seem that the life of a swine club in any one district is five or six years, and that if the work is to continue the supervisors must reach out to newer districts. This is as it should be. It would not be fair for one or two districts to get all the services of these men, and we have found that wherever a swine club has been established for a couple of years, a great improvement in the quality of the stock has taken place, so that when once a district has started to improve its swine by breeding and feeding, the services of the supervisors can better be used in new fields".

The winning team on the C.N.R. in 1928 was N. Williams and R. Williams from Vermilion, trained by J. F. Andrew. The winning team on the C.P.R. was Margaret Roper and Nellie Crawford from Lacombe, trained by Gavin Barbour. "The railway competition has been a great stimulus to the swine club work", said Mr. Carlyle, "and the trip of these boys and girls to the Royal Show as guests of the railway companies has proved a valuable education to them".

The year 1929 saw a change in name to Boys' and Girls' Livestock Clubs. This was in keeping with the expansion resulting in formation of sheep, dairy and beef cattle as well as swine clubs. In that year a man who was to be long associated with junior club activities in Alberta became supervisor. He was



George S. Black — Thirty Years with 4-H in Alberta.

George S. Black, whose livestock experience, kindly qualities, and keen interest in young people and their welfare, endeared him to the hearts of the many thousands of junior club members with whom he became associated.

NATIONALIZATION

From 1926 until formation of the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work in 1931, the C.N.R. swine competitions continued and in 1928 were enlarged to include dairy calf clubs. By that time the boys' and girls' club movement across Canada was expanding to such an extent that sponsorship by individual companies was becoming more and more difficult and the need for a national organization was becoming evident.

In a letter to Hon. Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, on January 19, 1931, Hon. George Hoadley was advising that the boys' and girls' livestock clubs of Alberta were under direction of the Livestock Commissioner and directly administered by the Superintendent of boys' and girls' clubs. Clubs other than livestock were under direction of the branches of the department most intimately concerned.

He spoke of the help received from the Federal Department of Agriculture and the two railway companies, but suggested that a uniform schedule of financial assistance to all boys' and girls' clubs be provided by payment of a fixed percentage of the prizes offered. Mr. Hoadley also suggested that educational trips be provided as championship prizes. "The trips to Toronto", he said, "which have been provided to swine and calf club winners through the generosity of the railways in past years, have been of great value and there is no doubt that events similarly interesting and of great educational value might be attended by winners from other types of clubs".

He suggested the advisability of providing scholarships at the schools of agriculture and other agricultural educational institutions, and pointed the need for programs for young farm men and women who had passed through the clubs.

At the Royal Winter Fair in 1930, a temporary committee on boys' and girls' club work in Canada had been appointed at a meeting called by Hon. Robert Weir, and on February 20, 1931, a report was submitted to Mr. Hoadley by Hon. Robert Weir of the meeting of this Committee at Toronto on November 20, 1930.

The committee reported as objectives of a national boys' and girls' agricultural club policy:

- (1) To foster, promote and develop boys' and girls' agricultural club work in Canada.
- (2) To co-ordinate all club work in Canada.
- (3) To arrange for trips, prizes, scholarships and programs at National contests.

They suggested as members of a committee, one representative from each Provincial Department of Agriculture, preferably the director of extension or party in charge of the provincial boys' and girls' club work; one representative from the Federal Department of Agriculture; and three representatives of commercial organizations contributing to yearly trips and prizes.

The executive committee would consist of one representative of provincial departments for eastern Canada and one for western Canada, two representatives from the Federal department of agriculture and one representative of contributing organizations.

Then on April 8, 1931, F. W. Walsh, Superintendent of Agriculture, C.N.R., Montreal, wrote to Alberta Deputy Minister H. A. Craig, mentioning that at a meeting of the committee in Ottawa on March 27, 1931, A. E. MacLaurin had been appointed secretary. Mr. MacLaurin was formerly Livestock Commissioner and Director of Extension for the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture.

An amount of \$10,000.00 was required for the first year's operations towards which the Province of Alberta was asked to contribute \$325.00. The Alberta Minister of Agriculture, Hon. George Hoadley, agreed to this.

On July 22, 1931, A. E. MacLaurin, Secretary of the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club work wrote to Deputy Minister H. A. Craig enclosing a circular dated July 15, 1931, and a statement of proposed regulations. In the circular he mentions "When the Council commenced on May 16th, it was hoped that financial arrangements might be sufficiently advanced so that a complete statement regarding the national

contests might be printed within the Royal Winter Fair prize list which went to press about the end of June. . . . ”

With formation of the Council, the railways agreed to furnish transportation to the winning provincial teams from the point of origin to Toronto and return. The railways alternated in transporting members from the East and from the West. When the C.N.R. carried members from the four western provinces, the C.P.R. brought them from the eastern provinces and vice versa.

The first competition at Toronto under auspices of the Canadian council was in 1931. Projects included judging of swine, dairy cattle, beef cattle, grain and potatoes; and contestants answered questions related to the projects. But it was not until November 1, 1932, that Mr. MacLaurin wrote to Deputy Minister of Agriculture H. A. Craig advising that incorporation of the Council had been completed and that the Alberta Department of Agriculture had been accepted as a member of the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work.

EARLY CROP CLUBS

In the meantime, Alberta field crop clubs were coming into prominence. They had not received the publicity of the livestock clubs, since they would seem to have grown gradually out of the school fairs that came into being with the appointment of district agricultural representatives in 1916. Field crops and grain were not handled by the junior clubs as such but as part of the school fair organization.

In 1923, prizes were given for the first time for boys' and girls' exhibits at the Provincial Seed Fair held that year in Edmonton. A small number of entries was reported but the quality was good. In the years that followed, the boys and girls continued their showing at these provincial fairs, but it was not until 1930 that we find reference to organization of eighteen junior field crop competitions.

A competition in oats was sponsored by the Peace River Seed Growers' Association at Grande Prairie. The Red Deer Board of Trade and the Morrin Seed Growers' Association held competitions in wheat in the districts served by them. Five sugar beet contests were organized by the Canadian Sugar Factory, Limited, and the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Association in the irrigated districts adjacent to Lethbridge. The Alberta Wheat Pool co-operated by furnishing seed and donating part of the prize money in forming ten contests with registered wheat at Lethbridge, Naco, Balzac, Huxley, Consort, Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Vermilion, Athabasca and Rossington. The total number of boys and girls taking part in these contests was 460, and the total of junior competitors in all contests was 544.

Then in 1931, 47 Junior Crop Improvement Associations were formed with groups of boys from 14 to 22 years inclusive. The Alberta Wheat Pool sponsored 29 of these in wheat. Each competitor was supplied with five bushels of registered or certified seed wheat at its commercial value delivered to the member's station. A ten dollar prize was granted to the member of each association securing the highest award on a standing crop.

The Western Canada Flour Mills Company Limited sponsored two oat associations by supplying members with regis-

tered oats at commercial value. The Peace River Co-operative Association, Grande Prairie, sponsored a third oat association at Grande Prairie. The Grimm Alfalfa Seed Growers' at Brooks sponsored fifteen alfalfa associations by supplying alfalfa seed to each member for one acre of crop at one-half its regular value.

The associations were reported as most successful. There were 537 boys in the wheat associations, and a member of the Camrose club, Oscar Olsen, Ohaton, won first prize with his wheat sample in the junior grain class at the Royal Winter Fair in 1931. There were 37 members in the oat associations and representatives took second, third, fourth and fifth prizes in the oat classes at the Royal Winter Fair. Peter Sebastian, a Grande Prairie member, won the provincial oat championship at the Provincial Seed Fair in Calgary. There were 202 boys in the alfalfa association.

This would seem to have been the beginning of the Junior Club idea for field crops. Meetings were held with each association from time to time throughout the season, and talks given on seeding, care of seed plots, preparation of exhibition grain and similar subjects. The autumn meeting took the form of a local seed fair, at which members exhibited their grain. There were 25 of these local seed fairs in 1931, some of them serving two or three associations.

The member in each association having the highest aggregate score on the standing crop, on the threshed grain, and on judging proficiency, was taken to Calgary for two days at the time of the Provincial Seed Fair. The Alberta Department of Agriculture provided transportation, while accommodation in the city was supplied by the Calgary Board of Trade assisted by Calgary firms.

In the early 1930's, B. J. Whitbread was writing: "Generally, one is impressed with the genuine show of enthusiasm behind junior grain club work which exists at the present time, and when so many of the senior activities have dropped. There is undoubtedly a desire among Junior U.F.A. supervisors and Farmer Club members to interest the young men of the farm in

growing good seed. There are possibly many cases where young men are interesting their parents in the use of good seed.

“Whatever the home influence that has resulted in such province-wide junior seed work, it is a mark of progress. It is very evident to those who are studying farming closely, under stress of present conditions, and who know that labour costs have been cut as low as possible, that only in large per acre yields of high quality grain lies the possibility of continuing on the farm. The Junior Grain Clubs offer an excellent opportunity of getting seed capable of this dual performance.

“To call the attention of our farm youths to the men walking through the country in search of work has perhaps one virtue, that of disillusioning their minds of any idea of going away from the farm where opportunities are offered to them and their help desired. It has not always been so, nor could farm boys always see the advantages of staying at home. Many of our out-of-works would like to start again where our juniors are starting.”

In another article, Mr. Whitbread mentions:

“Farm girls get a chance to take up any livestock work with the boys, but not grain growing. The question might be asked, why not? Grain work seems to be the men’s job solely. Chances are that the grain rows would not be very straight in the field if sister drove six horses on a drill and there might be ‘plenty missed’ in the plot. But perhaps sister’s keen eyesight and patience would result in a plot, by field judging time, that would be cleaner of weeds and off variety grain than brother’s, which might make the efficiency score all around 50-50.”

LIVESTOCK AGAIN

Tribute to the assistance of the Dominion Livestock Branch and others is given by Livestock Commissioner S. G. Carlyle in his report of Boys' and Girls' Swine Clubs in 1928. "We wish to mention", he said, "that the Dominion Livestock Branch has co-operated with the supervisors in furnishing pure-bred boars to these clubs. Without this assistance improvement in the quality of hogs would have been very much slower. The Dominion Livestock Branch has also been very generous in donating prize money for car-load lots, and also for local competitions in the country districts.

"The stock yards company, packing plants, commission firms and the James Ramsey company have also assisted the work very greatly, by offering prizes in the various classes at the annual competitions held in Calgary and Edmonton".

In 1929, G. S. Black had taken over as Supervisor. He reported in that year 21 swine clubs with total membership of 574 boys and girls. "The hogs produced by these members were of good quality", he noted, "the percentage of selects being 32 per cent. The average of hogs graded in the province in 1929 was less than 6 per cent." Mr. Black also reported expansion of sheep club work, most of the clubs being in the Hanna and Sedgewick districts. Requests were coming in too for dairy and beef calf clubs for 1930. One new club was formed in 1929, and four new ones wanted to start in the spring.

"A banner year for junior livestock clubs", was how he described 1930. Livestock projects included swine, dairy, beef and sheep clubs. Judging competitions were held for the first time in conjunction with the Edmonton and Calgary Exhibitions. Ninety boys and girls from 24 districts competed at the Annual Central Competition in Edmonton early in November, and a two-day course of instruction and judging work was held. The course included inspection trips to the stockyards, packing, dairy and publishing plants.

The Vegreville team were again the limelight when Robert Wyllie and William Schmidt won the Canadian National Railway trophy and were chosen to represent Alberta in the Dominion

contest at Toronto. They went on to become champions for the Dominion of Canada, bringing credit to themselves, their province and their coach, F. H. Newcombe. Similar credit came to W. Pidruchney, formerly assistant to Mr. Newcombe at Vegreville, but now district agriculturist at Willingdon. As coach of the Willingdon team, comprising William Strynadka and John Lazaruk, Mr. Pidruchney had the satisfaction of seeing them that same year win the C.P.R. trophy and also the coveted C.P.R. free trip to the Royal Winter Fair.

Calf club members too were winning honours that year. J. W. Howe, who was now district agriculturist at Camrose, had



Dr. W. J. Black with Dr. Black trophy winners Borden and Vernon McNeight of Camrose, 1930.

organized a dairy club with a membership of 12. A judging team from this club was trained to compete in the provincial competition at Edmonton in October, where they won the provincial championship. They were Borden McNeight and Vernon McNeight of Camrose. Moving on to represent Alberta at the Toronto Royal, they were successful in winning the Dr. Black trophy — the emblem of Dominion championship. This was the first time that both the swine and calf club trophies had been won by the same province.

Dr. W. J. Black, the donor of the trophy, was the first principal of the Manitoba Agricultural College, and later Director of Colonization and Agriculture for the Canadian National Railways. He believed that the best means of agricultural progress was through the farmer's family.

He was a classmate at Guelph of Dr. G. I. Christie, who became involved in agricultural extension from the Experimental Station of Purdue University and in 1906 was appointed Superintendent of Agricultural Extension for the State of Indiana.

Extension work of Dr. Christie included plots of corn grown by boys, and in 1907-08 there were 5,000 of these plots in 35 counties. In the following year boys and girls clubs were organized in 47 counties with the girls engaged in bread making, fruit canning, sewing and other domestic skills.

Dr. Black was well acquainted with this work among the rural boys and girls of Indiana and he instructed one of his staff, E. Wardley Jones, to contact the Department of Education and obtain their reaction to development of boys and girls clubs in rural areas in association with their school work.

The result was that through contact with the school principal at Roland, Manitoba, the first club in Canada was organized there in 1913, the projects being potatoes, corn and poultry. It was at Roland then that the 4-H clubs of Canada had their beginning. Fifty years later, in 1963, the event was marked by the erection and dedication at Roland of a memorial cairn.

But we were speaking of the Dr. Black trophy won at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto by Borden and Vernon McNeight of Camrose. It is little wonder that the Camrose

people were proud of their young winners. A letter from their father, J. L. McNeight, to Hon. George Hoadley in 1931 had this among other things to say: "I want to tell you that Mr. Black (George Black) and Mr. Jack Howe are the two best men in Alberta for training boys and girls for the calf, lamb and pig clubs, and I don't think they can be beaten.

"Are you going to send Mr. Jack Howe in this district again this year? There never was a man in a district that kept everyone satisfied and left everyone satisfied like Jack did. . . ."

To the disappointment of the district, Jack Howe did not return. In 1930-31 he was Instructor in Animal Husbandry at the University of Alberta; then in the latter year he was on his way to Jamaica to assume duties of Headmaster at the Jamaica School of Agriculture and Superintendent of the Government stock farm at Kingston.

Mention has been made of the work of the district agriculturists in the cause of junior clubs, but not less important in the early days was the interest of the staffs of the Alberta Schools of Agriculture. It was, as we have seen, through the efforts of the Olds School principal, W. J. Elliott, that the first of these clubs came into being.

There seems to have been a very close link between the school fairs and the junior clubs until a special supervisor of Boys' and Girls' club work was appointed in the person of Lyman T. Chapman in 1923. And this association continued for some time after with the showing of club swine and calves at the school fairs.

Speaking of swine clubs in 1926, Supervisor J. W. Howe advised: "The majority of these clubs had entries either in the local fair or the school fair, entries consisting of a pair of feeder pigs. Judging competitions were also held and the three highest scoring members were chosen to represent the club in the judging competition held at the boys' and girls' swine show in Edmonton".

Livestock improvement was a prominent feature of early junior club activity, and its effect across Canada was stressed by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture in his report for the year

ended March 31, 1929. Speaking of boys' and girls' swine clubs with reference to the Dominion Hog Grading Policy he said:

This policy, which has been in effect for eight years, continues to be one of the major factors in swine improvement work in the three maritime and in the four western provinces.

These clubs serve as a medium for the distribution each spring of large numbers of bacon type gilts. These gilts are retained and become brood sows on the farms on which they are placed. A further very important phase of this work is the opportunity afforded each year for contact with a large number of farm boys and girls and their parents. This contact facilitates the spreading of information regarding proper feeding, use of dairy by-products, the growing of green feeds, proper housing, swine sanitation and intelligent marketing.

The improvement in the type of hogs marketed from Swine Club districts is the best testimonial for the effectiveness of this policy in laying the foundation for improved conditions as applies to both breeding and marketing practices.

The Judging Competitions which are part of each Swine Club Fair are a real feature, especially in recent years, when the high team from each province received free transportation from the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways to the Central Judging Competition at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto.

The assistance in organizing and directing Swine Clubs is taken care of by the agricultural representatives of the provincial departments. Supervision and personal contact are carried on co-operatively between officials of the Dominion Livestock Branch and the provincial Departments of Agriculture, and the district in which the club is organized. The prize money for the Inter-Club Carlot Competition and the Inter-Club Judging Competition is provided by the Dominion Livestock Branch.

There is a continued demand from each of the provinces for an expansion in Swine Club work. In 1927, the clubs

organized totalled 130 while 132 were organized during the past year. Five clubs in Manitoba each produced a carload of hogs grading 100 per cent selects. . . .

The number of Boys' and Girls' Swine Clubs noted by the Minister at that time were:

Province	No. of Clubs
Nova Scotia	10
New Brunswick	35
Manitoba	30
Saskatchewan	20
Alberta	24
British Columbia	13



LEADERSHIP

In 1919, Mr. Holeton from the Olds School of Agriculture is seen organizing a pig club at Bowden, while in 1920 Principal F. S. Grisdale is reporting that during the summer season when the school was not in session, the school fair and pig club work now takes up all of one man's time. The school staff in that year organized a boys' and girls' pig club at Innisfail, bought the pigs and delivered them to that point.

Again in 1921, summer activities of the Olds School of Agriculture included "work in organization and management of school fairs, calf and pig clubs and kindred organization in the district". School fairs, however, comprised most of the summer work of the schools of agriculture staff among the young people of the province, and as the boys' and girls' club work continued to expand it was left more and more to the district agriculturists.

Towards the end of the 1920's the need for more assistance in junior activities was apparent. Demands on the time of the district agriculturists was becoming so great that what to do with the junior clubs was causing some concern. The district agriculturists were finding less and less time to give the clubs the supervision they ought to have, and these clubs were too valuable an asset to Alberta agriculture and to its young people to allow them to disintegrate.

As early as 1928, Livestock Commissioner S. G. Carlyle is mentioning the shortage of help and regretting that more supervisors are not available. "A great many more clubs could be organized each year", he said, "if there were sufficient supervisors to organize and look after them, and the work is retarded on this account".

And in 1930, Supervisor of Boys' and Girls' Clubs G. S. Black was pointing out that the policy of the Department of Agriculture was to organize clubs only where complete supervision could be given, and that the number of clubs that could be organized each year depended entirely on the amount of time available for club work by fieldmen of the department. He paid tribute to the work done by W. D. Gentleman, St. Paul, and J. W. Howe, Camrose, and advised that much of their time was devoted to securing better livestock.

In 1932, reference was made by Deputy Minister H. A. Craig to the practical impossibility of officers of the Department meeting club members as often as they would wish, because of the extent of the clubs, and at the same time mentioned the decision of the Department to publish a circular several times during the season and provide a copy for each member. Then in a letter dated October 24, 1934 to Mr. Craig, Mr. MacLaurin was expressing his views on this matter of leadership.

More responsibility, he thought, should be placed on local clubs, and the most efficient way of doing this would seem to be the appointment of local leaders who would direct club activities and act as key men between the clubs and the Department. Development of local leadership was discussed, together with provision of instructional material and recognition to be given to local leaders for their work. Mr. MacLaurin thought that provision of remuneration might cause trouble and a better way to help repay them for their services would be through provincial conferences, training schools and instructive programs. Preparation of instructional material for use of club leaders was considered an essential part of the plan.

And still this matter of leadership for the clubs was in abeyance. "The demand for organization of grain clubs could not be entirely taken care of", reported Field Crops Commissioner O. S. Longman in 1934. At the same time, Supervisor of Boys' and Girls' Livestock Clubs G. S. Black was mentioning that supervisors of the swine clubs were representatives of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, the Dominion Department of Agriculture and the Soldier Settlement Board.

Leadership was still not down to the local level, but some of the burden of responsibility had at least been removed from the shoulders of the ever-willing district agriculturist. Some clubs suffered due to lack of supervision, said Mr. Black, "but it is hoped that enough supervisors will be engaged in the coming year to give this work all the attention that it deserves".

Then in 1941, we find the first mention of a leadership conference in the annual report of Principal James Murray of the Olds School of Agriculture. He mentions that a conference

of club leaders, held during Farm and Home Week, June 23 to 27, brought men and women from widely separated parts of the province who were interested in the work with young people.

This local leadership was not something imposed from above, but grew out of the interest of the people themselves. There is no doubt that it was encouraged by the district agriculturists, since in every district there were key men through whom they could work, and interest in the young people and in the farm clubs brought a response from parents and others that took the form of active leadership and guidance of the boys and girls in the clubs.

But as late as March, 1946, J. G. Rayner, Extension Director, University of Saskatchewan, was remarking: "As is well known, the securing of sufficient qualified right-minded leaders for club work and for other community enterprises is one of our most difficult and ever present problems". He was addressing the General Meeting of the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work in Winnipeg. "Where are leaders to be found?", he asked, and replied:

When faced with the obligation of choosing a leader, the community or sponsoring organization should canvass carefully all persons in the community considered to have the minimum qualifications required and who would be willing to serve. One who has had experience in community affairs is to be preferred but excellent leaders often come from the ranks of the inexperienced and grow up with the club.

After the club has been functioning successfully for some years undoubtedly the best leaders come from among the graduates of the club. They have grown up with the club, they have carried out its projects, they have participated actively in its citizenship features, and have learned the duties and the value of the good leader. Many such good club graduates will likely be willing to act.

Graduates of Schools and Colleges of Agriculture and those who have participated actively in various Extension programs should make first class leadership material. Many such could be named who are doing a fine job in Saskatche-

wan. They may not have been club members and consequently will not be experienced in club affairs, but they should have a vision of the possibilities and the worthwhileness of farming and of rural life and consequently be possessed of a missionary spirit.

Referring to this phase of the movement, F. H. Newcombe related how, although there was no early **system** of local leaders, local leadership entered early. "Most of us", he said, "had one or two local men to work with us; almost always parents".

Mr. Newcombe told how in the organization of the first pig club at Vegreville in 1924, he called a public meeting. He invited people he knew and got the names of other potential members. Out of that meeting, a club was organized and there evolved certain older people who were most enthusiastic. He tried to capitalize on their enthusiasm by using them, and they gave considerable time and effort to the clubs.

Speaking of those early days, Mr. Newcombe mentioned that in the early 1920's, Switzer Freeborn, who was connected with the Federal Livestock Branch in Calgary, was provided by his government with a 1½ or 2 ton truck. "We used to borrow this truck", he said. "One day we came down to Calgary, loaded up the truck with weaner pigs between Calgary and Vegreville and distributed them to the club members".

The young people in those days, he recalled, were shy and retiring. They had never been away from home. One thing this swine club at Vegreville did was to get them to speak up. But whatever it did for the youngsters, it changed the complexion of the swine industry in that area completely. At that time, the thick, smooth type was predominant — the Berkshire, Poland China type of hog.

This improvement in quality in the Vegreville area, Mr. Newcombe said, was attributable to the swine club; but we could not have accomplished it, he added, without the Federal Government Boar Loaning Policy. At one time we had 40 loaned boars in that area. Shipping Wiltshire sides to Britain was the purpose of this policy, he said. (Interesting in this respect is the annual report of the Federal Minister of Agricul-

ture for 1929 in which, speaking of the Sire Loan Policy, he says: "The greatest advantage of this policy is taken in the Province of Alberta where there seems to be a greater demand, especially from foreign settlements, for bacon-type boars and pure-bred rams.")

It has often been said that the 4-H club was a vehicle of contact with parents, Mr. Newcombe remarked. The idea was that you met the parents through the junior club activities.

And it was some little time before those early district agriculturists were accepted by some of the people in their districts. Mr. Newcombe recalled how some of the old hard-headed farmers of the Vegreville district, successful farmers, came into the office shortly after he had been appointed.

After he had been there two or three months, and this was back in 1924, they came in and said that as far as a district agriculturist was concerned it was a waste of public money. There was nothing personal about this and relations were definitely friendly; but the idea was that a district agriculturist couldn't help them at all — a college man couldn't teach them anything about farming. It made some difference when they learned that he had farmed himself, but they were still not sold on the idea.

The sequel was that twelve years later these same farmers arranged a dinner in his honour, and remarked that if nothing else, the junior club work had undoubtedly justified the policy and expense of the agriculturist in their area.

And there were always those parents who needed persuading that the clubs might be a good thing for their youngsters. Ed Ness, now Head of the Field Service Department of the Alberta Wheat Pool in Calgary, tells of an experience of this kind with a garden club at Flatbush. It was a small club of about twelve girls.

One fourteen-year old was very keen on club work but seemed to receive little help from her parents. Towards evening on a garden club achievement day this girl was the only one who had not shown up with her display of vegetables, canned goods and flowers. It looked as though she were not coming. Then,

suddenly, about 7 p.m., there was a cloud of dust on the road, and a light delivery truck pulled in with the girl and her father inside.

He was by no means a pleased parent. He had just got off the combine, and was annoyed to have had his work thus interrupted. To stop combining on a nice warm night for something as trivial as bringing his daughter to an achievement day was not his idea of good business.

Mr. Ness tells how he chatted with the father and persuaded him to stay for the program, in which the daughter took an active part. She did it well, and was also awarded a number of first place cards. The father enjoyed the program and during its progress showed pride in his daughter's accomplishment. "In fact", said Mr. Ness, "when he was leaving I said with a smile 'It's not likely I'll see you again at a 4-H function'. He grinned and replied: 'This has been a memorable evening and I'm going to give my daughter every support; this garden club has done wonders for her'".

Mr. Ness has long served as a member of the Wheat Pool staff, and the Alberta Wheat Pool has done a great deal over the years to encourage farm young people's activities in this province. Wheat, forage and garden clubs were sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool, oat clubs by the United Grain Growers' Limited, malting barley clubs by the Canada Malting Company, and feed barley clubs by the Line Elevators Farm Service.

Introduction of junior leadership training among club members in the 1940's was a step towards supplying the adult leadership need. It was at the Junior Club Weeks at the Schools of Agriculture that the idea arose. There were various little groups at the schools and leaders were required. Then again, there was the question of what to do with young people who had been to club week. They were not eligible to attend again. They needed the club work, but there was a possibility that they might drop out.

"So we got this idea of junior leadership", Miss Fraser* related. "We had information provided as to what they could do,

* Supervisor of Girls' Clubs 1942-54.



A 4-H Club Week Council, Vermilion.

and they were given instruction and direction in junior leadership”.

These were members who were a little older and were interested. They were offered the responsibility of assisting the leader and the younger members, with the idea that when they reached the age limit for club work they might become leaders in their districts, which in many cases they did. It was one way of retaining the older members in the club and giving them increased responsibility. They continued to carry a project as well as assisting the leader. Many of these junior leaders who were carrying a project were among those chosen for the trips to Toronto, Montana and other places.

Then there developed a broad training program for club leaders. Instructional material was provided. Regional conferences were introduced and the leaders were brought together for two or three days at a time. These conferences were developed for training in leadership, not for training in project work. Ideas were changing from those of the early leadership courses. Projects were now a means to an end; not an end in themselves.

Development of young people was the objective and the leader's responsibility was to work with the group. It wasn't a matter of getting away from the project idea, but project specialists could be brought in as required. A leader didn't have to know all about project topics to conduct a club. An understanding of young people and ability to advise and guide were the requirements.

And this was something the club member learned in his junior leadership training. Every year now a junior leadership camp is held at Goldeye Lake where interested members are given advanced training in junior leadership. For a whole week there, they are exposed to junior leadership discussion, following a program which they themselves have chosen and prepared.

But not all club leaders came up through club membership. Harold Paul, a leader for thirteen years of the Namao 4-H club near Edmonton told how he became involved. He mentioned that in 1954 he was approached by Jim Sharpe, a neighbouring farmer and a 1929 graduate of the Vermilion School of Agriculture. Mr. Sharpe had organized the Namao 4-H Beef Club and had suggested to Mr. Paul that he might be interested in this work. And soon he was fully involved with encouragement of public speaking as one of his prime interests.

"Over the years we have tried to have every member of the club take part on a committee", he said. "This gets more people involved and as the years go by they become a more intimate part of the 4-H machinery. One thing that bears out 4-H achievement in development of the young people is the number who have done so well when they left the club. You find them going on to the Agricultural and Vocational Colleges; developing into jobs of better than average nature and responsibility; you find them in community organizations.

"We find that a good 4-H record is one of the best recommendations that a youngster can take with him when seeking employment", Mr. Paul said. "Some of this credit is due to the Department, some to the Canadian Council, to the Regional Councils and to the grain and other sponsoring organizations. All have helped to publicize 4-H, which is now recognized as a really worthwhile organization.

"In our club", he continued, "we have put a tremendous amount of importance on public speaking, demonstrations, and on things in which the members take part on their own initiative. We have run into several cases where members of the Namao and Morinville clubs have brought favourable comment from their teachers; as to how they recognize the work of 4-H members in the school classes. In earlier days some principals were not too co-operative with 4-H because they thought it took the young people away from their homework. But now one of these same teachers pays tribute to 4-H, and speaks of the self-confidence of the members and their ability to express themselves".

And as a parent whose three children have had the advantage of 4-H training, Mr. Paul feels that both the member and the family have so much to gain. "4-H is one of the great forces in community work for family development", he said. "No one can work with 4-H and not be the richer for it. You learn a lot there about tolerance and human nature".

And from the family point of view the experience of Barry McDonald is of interest. Mr. McDonald is President of the Alumni Association of the Vermilion Agricultural and Vocational College and a Premier's Award winner for general proficiency in 4-H. His was a real 4-H family. The parents were extremely interested and Mr. McDonald senior was leader for many years. All five children were 4-H members, and four of them won scholarships at 4-H Club Week to attend the Vermilion college. All five are Vermilion graduates.

Barry spoke of his brother Bruce, who was chosen for National Club Week, and later sent down as candidate for the T. Eaton Scholarship, which he won. This gave him four years at the University of Alberta, after which he carried on through his Master's and Doctor's degrees and is now engaged in teaching and research at Macdonald College. The start was 4-H.

"It was my eldest brother who got us started", Barry said. "One of his friends suggested he join, and this in turn interested my parents. From then on we became a real 4-H family. Much of our discussion in the home was about 4-H and our projects. Our parents never sent us to the meetings; they took us. Like many other things", Barry said, "you get out of 4-H what you



A 4-H Family. L to R — Barry, Bruce, Josie, Mrs. McDonald, Mr. McDonald, Ilene, Shirley.

put into it. I held every office in the club, and gained something from each one”.

For three years he was junior leader, and as junior leader he tried to get the members involved; to get them interested in doing things for themselves. “You can’t get out of 4-H”, he said. “You just don’t get out of it”.

And one leader whose influence continues should be remembered here. He was Joe Pennington, leader of the Pembridge Club. Mr. Pennington came into the leaders’ courses and did excellent work with his club.

But he became ill, went into Barrhead and was admitted to hospital there. Calling his lawyer, he drew up a will leaving his money to 4-H. Further discussion suggested changes and it was deemed advisable to have at least some of the money set aside for scholarships. Before the revised will could be signed, Mr. Pennington died and some delay in sanction of the bequest occurred. The will, however, was eventually approved and two J. Pennington scholarships to the value of around \$600 each are now provided annually.

BOYS AND GIRLS TOGETHER

"Two thousand eight hundred and forty-three young people are now members of junior clubs, and engaging in educational programs embracing many branches of agriculture", reported Deputy Minister H. A. Craig in 1933. Among them were the junior clubs in field crops projects under supervision of the Field Crops Branch. These clubs accounted for 1,583 of the 2,843 members mentioned above. The remainder were engaged in projects administered by the Livestock Branch.

Among the field crops clubs were 46 wheat, 31 oats, 7 barley, 31 alfalfa, 1 corn and 1 potato club. Co-operating with the Field Crops Branch in their organization were the Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Canada Malting Company, Grimm Alfalfa Growers, Alberta Seed Growers, and the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

In 1935, direction of Junior Livestock work was transferred from the Livestock Branch to the office of Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture S. H. Gandier. Mr. Black had accepted the position of district agriculturist at Wetaskiwin.

With financial assistance from the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, junior camps were held at Class A and B fairs at Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Camrose, Vegreville and Vermilion. The total attendance was 564 and both grain and stock club members attended.

Junior grain clubs were now well organized. There were 130 of them with 1933 members. On payment of a membership fee, each member received enough registered or certified seed to sow four or five acres. The seed was multiplied under supervision of department fieldmen for use on the club members' own farms or for sale in the district.

And at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, Alberta Junior Clubs continued to make a name for themselves. The beef judging, swine judging and dairy judging provincial champions went on to the Royal where the Lacombe club beef team (Tom Biglands and Edwin Pethybridge) and the Dina swine team (Burnie Nicholson and Orlan Bratvold) won Dominion championships. Another championship was taken by the Grande Prairie seed

judging team (Justyn Rigby and Arthur Mackey). This meant the taking of three of the possible six championships at Toronto; and a record at the Royal Winter Fair for any one province.

But it wasn't always the boys of the livestock clubs who took the provincial championships and went on to the National Contests. In 1928, the winning team for the C.P.R. trip to the Royal Winter Fair was Margaret Roper and Nellie Crawford of the Lacombe Swine Club. Then in 1936, the Dominion Championship in swine judging was won by the Ferguson girls of Conjuring Creek.

In 1938, Joan Webb and Elaine Hamilton of Lethbridge went to Toronto as the provincial winners in the dairy contests. Provincial winners in the swine competitions in 1939 were Eleanor Rattray and Ellen Stone of the Prosperity Club. And since the Toronto Royal Show was discontinued temporarily in 1939, the Provincial Government arranged for scholarships that assisted the winners in the beef, swine, dairy and grain contests to attend one of the Schools of Agriculture.

Then in 1940, Isabel Ferguson of Calmar and Nora Fulcher of Leduc, members of the Liberty Swine Club, won the Provincial championship and went on to represent their club in the National Contests at Toronto. In that same year too, another girl, Jean Stewart of Duhamel, teamed up with Stan Gould to represent the Camrose Dairy Club and the Province at Toronto.

And so it went, with these and other girls over the years showing that excellence in livestock judging was not purely a male prerogative. But as the years went by, having proved themselves second to none in this field, they tended more in later years to the foods, clothing and other household science subjects when they continued in their trips to the East to bring honours to their clubs and to the province.

In 1937, Director of Junior Work W. J. Elliott was writing:
. Junior Clubs are sponsored very largely by the district agriculturists, and their activity and life is largely determined by the amount of time that these agricultural officials are able to devote to this work. It is only fair to state that a multitude of field activities of various kinds,

and from various Government Departments, find their way to the fieldmen for attention.

In spite of these various duties, clubs have attained a prominent place in the Province, as may be determined by the showing that Alberta clubs of all kinds make in competition with those of other provinces. We are satisfied, however, that if clubs are to maintain their present place in the agricultural life of the Province, to say nothing of increasing in numbers, the detail work of organization and management must be removed, in large measure, from the shoulders of the District Agriculturists. As a matter of fact, this is coming to be true with some of our best clubs which are almost entirely under the direction of a local, interested committee, with the District Agriculturist as adviser to the committee and instructor for the club members.

This is a fair way to look at the matter, for there are many districts which are asking for new or additional clubs, and additional clubs are very vital from the standpoint of livestock improvement, but these new districts cannot be reached with our present force, simply because the District Agriculturists cannot do more without sacrificing something in another direction.

And again in 1940 he was remarking:

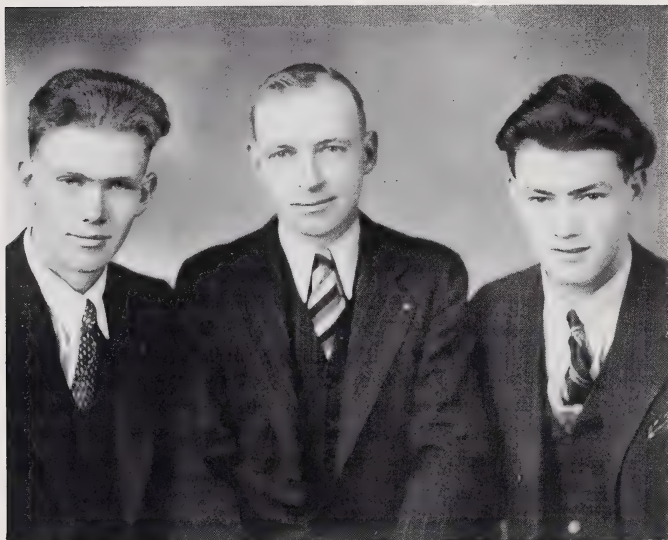
We again emphasize the need for some form of training in club leadership for those who are graduating from our clubs. At the age of 21 they cease as club members, and at present there is little further training for them. In these boys and girls there is a trained force which, with coaching in club leadership, might enable us to go much further with grain and livestock club activities.

But many of these club members went on to the Schools of Agriculture, and the impact of these Schools on the early leadership of our junior clubs is not always given the credit it deserves.

"Graduates of Alberta's Schools of Agriculture", Peter Wyllie remarked, "laid the foundation for junior club leaders throughout the province. Wherever you went you found some ex-student of the Schools of Agriculture involved in these activities. With the

enthusiasm of Mr. Elliott — and I think he was a very potent force — it was only natural that he should develop his students through the Schools of Agriculture as workers.

“These men”, he continued, “had some knowledge of how a meeting should be conducted; they’d had training in livestock judging, and were more or less familiar with other aspects of club activity. Often, however, we had to rely on leaders who had no training or experience. They were valuable and their services were appreciated, and, in fact, if it had not been for these leaders many of the clubs would not have survived. But it meant that much of the burden was thrown on the busy district agriculturist.



Dina Swine Club Team, Dominion Champions, 1935. L to R—Orland Bratvold, Peter Wyllie (Coach), Burnie Nicholson.

THE DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Peter Wyllie, a member of that first winning team at the Royal Winter Fair in 1924, has continued throughout his life as a specialist in swine, and has had wide experience in many fields of this endeavour.

In 1967, he was Manager of the All-Canada Exhibition (Centennial Swine Exhibition), which was held in Edmonton July 23 to 29, and received favourable comment throughout the country. Out of his club work in 1924 came his desire to go forward to agricultural school and university, and give his life to improvement of agriculture in general and swine management in particular.

In 1934, he was assisting George Black with junior activities. That fall he trained a team of boys, Merton Faulkner and Harold Seal, members of the Liberty Swine Club at Conjuring Creek, a club that was to make a name for itself. These boys stood second in the provincial competition that year, and that was the last time that a team coached by Peter Wyllie stood second in the provincial contests. All the others were first.

In 1935 he coached his first championship team. They were Orlan Bratvold and Burnie Nicholson of the Dina Swine Club at Paradise Valley, and they took the title at Toronto. Then the Liberty Swine Club at Conjuring Creek came into the picture. In 1936, the National Judging Contest honours went to Ethel and Lilius Ferguson. These girls were coached by District Agriculturist Herb Scott:

In December 1936, Peter Wyllie opened the new district agriculturist office at Leduc, the first D.A. office between Edmonton and Red Deer. The office was moved to Thorsby in October, 1937, and it was many years before it was back again in Leduc. In the fall of 1937, the swine team coached by Mr. Wyllie, Robert Ferguson and Howard Fulcher, stood first at Toronto.

They were followed in 1938 by Francis Blondheim and Lloyd Cook. This team had taken the provincial honours but down at Toronto they stood fourth. Then in 1940, Isabel Ferguson and Nora Fulcher, sisters of the 1937 winning team, were the Dominion champions. All these were members of the Liberty

Swine Club, and all coached by Peter Wyllie. In 1939, the winning provincial team he coached were Eleanor Rattray and Ellen Stone of the Prosperity Club at Falun. There was no Royal Winter Fair in 1939 and no Dominion Junior club contest.

Training teams took a great deal of work. Not only had the team to be trained in judging hogs, but two days were spent in the packing plants in Edmonton, judging carcasses in preparation for the provincial and dominion finals. The youngsters had to give a demonstration on the whole aspect of swine raising too.

"We were up against the top extension men across Canada", Mr. Wyllie pointed out, "and had to go all out to train a team. We really got down and worked with them. We'd get the boys and girls together at night and drill them for a couple of hours. Among other things, we had to teach them to speak and give reasons, and to spell so that they could fill out the score card correctly. When they were through they'd had a real training. I was under pressure for a month before the Royal, and was really ready for a rest when it was over. These boys and girls had no transportation and you took them wherever they had to go."

Other district agriculturists tell of the time consumed on junior club work. Long hours night and day they spent getting the teams ready for provincial and federal contests, but none has said that it was not worth while. In spite of the hard work and long hours they enjoyed working with the young people and felt that they were really accomplishing something.

It was at that time too, that Jean Fontaine was serving as district agriculturist in the St. Paul area. It was in 1937 that he went up into that district and with the help of W. H. Sutton organized his first beef feeding club. For thirty years, Mr. Sutton served as club leader, and in 1966 the community met to express their appreciation of the good work he had done.

Jean Fontaine credits J. H. Tremblay with his first interest in junior club work. Mr. Tremblay was appointed French district agriculturist for the province in 1930, and he would pick up Fontaine and take him out on some of his calls. Both were graduates of Laval University and had known each other in their

student days. Mr. Fontaine at that time was manager of the Youville House farm at St. Albert. Youville House was then a residential school administered by the Grey Nuns, with an 800-acre farm attached.

Tremblay organized a beef feeding club at Namao, and grain, swine and cattle clubs at Falher and other points in his area. It was Tremblay who persuaded Fontaine to enter the district agriculturist field.

In the year that Fontaine organized his first beef club, he started also a swine club at St. Paul. Pigs were the first requirement, and he relates how he phoned Dave Andrew, Animal Husbandry Instructor and Farm Manager at the Vermilion School of Agriculture and asked him about swine breeders in his area. On the appointed day, Fontaine was knocking on the Andrew door at 7 a.m. with a trailer attached to his car. He had travelled that morning the sixty miles over dirt roads from St. Paul to Vermilion. At 5 p.m. he was back in St. Paul to distribute the pigs to the swine club boys and girls.

He too, speaks of the tremendous impact of the junior clubs in his area and of their effect on swine improvement. Soon after he arrived, Livestock Commissioner S. G. Carlyle said to him, "If you can place a few good boars in this area it would be a great thing. This district is among those having the poorest quality pigs in the province". Fontaine had already placed some twelve or fifteen boars under the Federal Boar Loaning Policy and by the time he left the area in 1945, its quality rating was one of the highest.

He spoke of the many benefits accruing to the area as a result of the Junior Swine Clubs, but one in particular stands out.

The first swine club that Mr. Fontaine had in St. Paul decided that they would ship their pigs together. One of the dealers was asked to co-operate by providing free shipment. He said that he couldn't ship them for nothing but he would charge only 75c a head. Fontaine took the number of the car and as a matter of interest followed it through to the buyer in Edmonton. His interest led to investigation of the profits the shippers were making, and the result astounded him.

He told how he approached Livestock Commissioner Carlyle and advised him of the excessive profits by dealers and suggested organization of farmers into livestock shipping associations.

"Carlyle did not think this was part of the duty of a district agriculturist", Fontaine said, "but he agreed to my suggestion for leave of absence for six months, during which I organized the Northeastern Alberta Livestock Shipping Association, which is still in existence and has a thriving business."

And it was around this time that S. S. Graham, now Director of Extension for the Alberta Department of Agriculture, was gaining his experience of junior clubs. It was in 1940 that he went down to Lethbridge as district agriculturist and he speaks of the long-time help he received from Bill McIntyre of the McIntyre Ranch at Magrath. He was a real supporter of 4-H and for years supplied the calves for the Lethbridge beef calf club. There were about seventy in the club at that time, all getting their calves from McIntyre.

Mr. Graham reports that when they went down for the calves, McIntyre would turn around two hundred white faces into the corral, all as like as peas in a pod. "If you can't get enough from these two hundred, I'll put in another two hundred", he said.

It was the first year that Graham was down there and the achievement day and sale was on. Some disagreement among the buyers arose as to shrinkage allowance and other matters, and they declined to bid on the junior club calves. The disappointment of the boys and girls can be imagined. But again Bill McIntyre came to the rescue and bought back at market price the calves that he had earlier supplied.

Mr. Graham stressed the development of club members, and told how for each meeting four or five had to prepare a report. One might speak about making a rope halter, another would talk about nutrition, and a third might discuss grooming and preparing a calf for show. In this they were developing confidence and public speaking ability, he noted.

Speaking too of the grain clubs, he mentioned here the improvement of grain quality in an area as a result of registered

seed grown by club members, and how some of the members in later years became major seed producers and exhibitors. In the mid-1940's at Milk River, fertilizers were tested as a supplementary project of the grain club. One half of a plot was fertilized and the other not, and yield records were carefully kept.

Reference to introduction of good quality grain into a district as a result of the junior grain clubs was made in an Alberta Wheat Pool publication of 1948, "The Pathway to Better Farming". Stated there was that members of the Rockyford Junior Wheat Club calculated that if all the wheat descending from the bushelage with which the club originally started had been seeded each year, in five years over 45,000,000 bushels of good quality wheat would have been produced.

Along these same lines, Colin Groff, Publicity Director for the Government of Alberta, wrote in an issue of the Edmonton Journal in November, 1932: "A young lad who joined the junior oat club at Brightview got nine bushels of registered Victory oats. From these nine bushels he threshed in the fall of 1931 some 198 bushels of registered oats. He kept most of this seed for his father's farm and this fall they threshed 3,292 bushels of pure seed oats, for which they will obtain a considerable premium over the market price".

What the clubs could do for agriculture and what agriculture could do for the clubs was then the theme of club publicity. But side by side, and never unrecognized, was the influence of club activities on the growth and development of its members.

THE GRAIN CLUBS

Allan M. Gibson, recently retired manager of the Public Relations Department of the Alberta Wheat Pool, tells how the Pool was sponsor of the Junior Wheat Clubs from the beginning. The U.G.G. looked after the oat clubs, and came in soon after.

The Junior Wheat Club movement had a small beginning in 1930 when fifteen clubs were formed with a total membership of 200, and a seed distribution of 435 bushels of registered and certified seed grain. By 1940 the movement had grown until there were 78 clubs operating in Alberta with a membership of 1,361, and a total seeded acreage of 5,440.

"A large percentage of the wheat club leaders in the early days were elevator agents", Mr. Gibson recalled. "The way we went about starting these clubs was to get in touch with the district agriculturist and discuss possibilities. Then we saw the youngsters and their parents and called a meeting. The district agriculturist usually asked the agent if he would be willing to act as leader and if he agreed that was it. Right from the beginning, the success of the clubs depended to a large extent on the club leader. You needed an agriculturist who took an interest, and if you also had a leader who took an interest you were away to a good start.

"When the clubs started in the first place the main thing was to develop an interest in better seed", Mr. Gibson said. "But when the young people took such an active interest and people began to see the benefits, the emphasis gradually shifted until more people were keen on having their boys in the clubs for what it did to them than to the grain.

"Although quite a contribution was made to the quality of grain through the grain clubs it is now more the youngster who is the focal point."

Mr. Gibson went on to tell about how his particular club, the Rumsey Junior Wheat Club, not only had their regular meetings but took part in various activities. They had a baseball team, and had picnics and baseball games at weekends. About once a year, parents of the youngsters would organize a banquet, and, he said, "we usually had a guest from the Wheat Pool or the Government to tell us how good we had been".

"We were second in the province in the achievement standing one year and lost out mainly because we had Red Bobs wheat. We had Red Bobs wheat as our project rather than better show wheats, so were beaten on the exhibitions. We lost just enough points that we were second place for the province by a very narrow margin.

"Another year, in spite of Red Bobs, we had very good wheat, and District Agriculturist Alex. Charnetski recommended that we send samples to the Royal. Some twenty members came into the elevator and worked on the best samples and prepared them for Toronto in a very few days. Our highest placing was sixth, but eight of these samples placed six to thirteen, which we thought extremely good for Red Bobs wheat.

"We had two or three big field days", Mr. Gibson continued, "in which the district agriculturist tied in his program with ours. We arranged the place where we were going to have the field day, brought down samples of different kinds of wheat and planted plots. This was the beginning of the fertilizer idea. Some rows we planted with fertilizer and some without. In summer we had a big field day and everybody was invited. The 4-H club was the sponsor along with the Department of Agriculture. We had a very large crowd both from the district and adjoining districts. Officials went out to the plots, lectured, and pointed out how to identify the wheat varieties and the advantages of good varieties. They also drew attention to the difference between the fertilized and non-fertilized plots.

"As a result you could hear the farmers talking. Then they would go home and looking over their fields find many varieties there. One of the first and immediate effects was a change of seed in the district. It was Red Bobs, but we shipped a lot of good, hard red wheat out of that district even though it was Red Bobs. We got rid of Red Bobs later.

"It was a very rewarding sort of experience," said Mr. Gibson. These youngsters were so enthusiastic that it was fun working with them. When the war began and I went overseas, they presented me with a fine travelling case."

In "The Pathway to Better Farming", a publication of the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1948, wheat club beginnings are described as follows:

About twenty years ago, there was a feeling of apprehension regarding the quality of wheat produced in western Canada. Some British millers complained that Canadian export wheat was deteriorating in quality. Technical agriculturists noted a gradual increase in the intermixture of varieties of wheat being sown by Alberta farmers. Authorities reached the conclusion that something should be done materially to improve the standard of wheat produced.

At a joint meeting held in 1930, of representatives of the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture and the Alberta Wheat Pool, the junior wheat club movement was launched in Alberta. Not only was the aim of the movement to improve the quality of crops, but also to develop leadership among farm young people; to demonstrate the value of good seed and the value of good tillage practices; to educate Alberta junior farmers in the production of improved seed; to bring together for discussion and demonstration all those interested in crop production problems; and to foster the co-operative spirit through club organization.

The leading role in the Junior Club movement is played by the Alberta Government's Department of Agriculture, through its Junior Activities and Extension Branches, whose officials have always taken an active and enthusiastic interest in this valuable work. These Branches are responsible for the organization and supervision of the junior clubs through the district agriculturist. Men from the Federal Department of Agriculture give freely and cheerfully of their time and experience.

The Alberta Wheat Pool takes an active interest in the movement because it believes that not only does it encourage better farming methods and the production of high quality wheat, but it also develops leadership among farm boys and girls in the province.

But the Wheat Pool was not the only grain company interested in developing leadership among farm boys and girls or

in encouraging production of better quality grain. Involved in these early activities were the United Grain Growers, Canada Malting, and the Line Elevators. In the beginning, these companies sponsored the clubs individually. The Wheat Pool looked after the wheat clubs and the garden clubs, the U.G.G. the oat clubs, Canada Malting had the malting barley clubs, and the Line Elevators sponsored the feed barley clubs. Later, the Line Elevators sponsored all the barley clubs.

The U.G.G. field staff also assisted with the field crops program in a similar way to the Wheat Pool, with their men attending club meetings, tours, achievement days, club weeks, leadership training courses and other 4-H events.

All these companies helped to defray the cost of seed grain obtained by the boys; and the value of the grain the boys received was often far in excess of the five-dollar membership fee. As well as providing registered seed, these companies sponsored delegates to club weeks and to leadership courses, paying room and board and transportation costs. They also provided awards at achievement days as part of their sponsorship. In 1959, the U.G.G., the Wheat Pool and the Line Elevators got together and sponsored the grain clubs jointly. This continued until about two years ago when a new arrangement was made with the U.G.G. and the Wheat Pool.

Although the Wheat Pool was the first with these clubs, the others followed shortly after and have been faithful supporters for the past 35 years.

W. S. Scarth, who was associated with the Alberta Department of Agriculture in the early days of the grain clubs speaks of the Department involvement in their organization. It was usually a U.F.A. local that applied for a club, he said. They would write in to the department and ask for a meeting.

He too relates how the objective of the grain clubs in the beginning was good seed. The grain companies along with the Federal Grain Branch and the Alberta Department of Agriculture realized that good seed was vital. The Peace River area was opening up and the authorities were concerned about the type of seed that was going into this new country. The Dominion



A Typical 4-H Grain Plot.

Seed Branch men knew that some poor seed was being used, and when the idea of these grain clubs was broached the grain companies responded readily.

Stress was laid on the seed and on isolation of the plot. The grain companies put up cost of the seed, but the Department looked after the supply of registered seed and billed the grain companies. We used to get the seed lined up in the old Terrace Building, he said, and also had seed in the Revillon Building. He recalls that Herman Trelle had a great deal to do with the clubs in the north. There was a great deal of enthusiasm, he said, and the grain companies considered it an excellent program.

In 1946, Mr. Scarth became associated with the United Grain Growers and continued with them until his recent retirement. "A noticeable feeling of the youngster being more important than the calf or the grain was when George Black came in as Supervisor", he said. "George had a very happy way of working with the organizations, and we were stressing then that this was a training for the young people".

The present director of the field staff of the U.G.G., W. Tullis, explained that as a co-operative the U.G.G. were interested in rural development, and when the opportunity arose they accepted sponsorship of the oat clubs. They were involved chiefly in the central and northern parts of the province. There were not too many oat clubs in the southern areas.

He mentioned how their men are now involved in such things as club weeks and leadership courses. When you spend a week with the young people you get to know them personally, Mr. Tullis remarked. It also develops a greater degree of co-operation between representatives of the organization and of the 4-H department, because of the fact that they are working together.

And now, instead of the Wheat Pool looking after the wheat clubs and the U.G.G. sponsoring the oat clubs as formerly, they sponsor the grain clubs together. Members of the Wheat Pool and the U.G.G. sit down with representatives from the Federal and Provincial Governments and decide just what is required in these programs.

"We are very happy with the way things are going", Mr. Tullis said. "There has never been a question on the part of the Directors of the U.G.G. about providing assistance for the 4-H movement."

"It was tough going at the start, but I have some very pleasant memories of those Junior Wheat Clubs", said another Wheat Pool staff member. He was W. Pettinger who served with the Pool from 1928 until his retirement in 1949. One of the difficulties was to get the parents interested. Mr. Pettinger tells of an instance in the early days:

"It was between Three Hills and Trochu", he said. "The father was not a bit interested when I tried to get the boy into the wheat club. I had arranged a meeting and called on the boys next day. Later, when the wheat was coming along, I went out to look at the plots. When I came to this place I asked the boy where the wheat plot was.

"He called to his mother: 'Mum, where did Dad seed my wheat?'" The father had seeded his field from the outside in,

and the boy's wheat was in the centre of the wheat field — he had cleaned the seed drill there. "Next year", said Mr. Pettinger, "I really followed through, and the father became interested and solidly behind the boy."

He then told of another case. It was difficult at times to get plots that were really suited to the growing of registered seed. It was usually just a matter of a general summerfallow operation with horses, and it didn't get rid of the weeds too well.

This particular plot was selected for the boy, but during the winter they hauled straw from the field and angled the little strip of land where the plot was. Considerable time was spent getting rid of the trash, but some good seed was salvaged. Soon, plots were really being prepared with very satisfactory results, and the boys were winning awards at Toronto and one or two at Chicago.

"We've done much to acquaint our young farmers with growing grain", said Mr. Pettinger. "They know now whether it's good or not".

"The girls too accomplished a lot", he continued, "with their sewing and garden clubs. The district home economists worked closely, while Margaret Fraser and Norma Hogg were outstanding in their contributions. Arthur Kemp at Olds was very interested in these garden clubs and did some of the judging. Others who were extremely active were Hugh McPhail, Fred Bell and Dunc. Hargrave".

THE GARDEN CLUBS

Joyce Tiegs, a member of that Brooks first Girls' Garden Club, started her Good Grooming scrap book for the winter project of 1941 with the following:

Oh! I could talk for an hour, said Nell —
On the psychic basis of dressing well —
It isn't a question of pocketbooks,
It isn't a figure, it isn't looks,
It isn't going to first rate places;
Believe me, the thing has a psychic basis,
It's caring — caring a terrible lot
Whether you're right or whether you're not.

And it seems that the girls of those early garden clubs did care a terrible lot about a great many things; things both inside and outside the house. "It's very important that you should be good housekeepers", Bill Pettinger once told them, "but no matter how well you do the work inside, if the approach to the house is not attractive it takes away from the appeal inside".

So not only in gardens were these girls interested. "We had a winter project and a summer project", said Donalene Robinson (Mrs. Meador of Brooks), first president of that first garden club in the province. "We had around twelve or fifteen members", she recalled. "This club combined three areas; Brooks, Millicent and One Tree. We had a very capable leader in Mrs. Sharpe, a former teacher who lived at One Tree. Messrs. Hargrave and Eshom assisted considerably, and ladies of the community, (associate members), helped and advised on the raising of funds and general procedure. We held bake sales, and had many enjoyable social evenings and dances in the schoolhouse."

Another charter member was Helen Edwards, (Mrs. Heinrichs of Brooks). "We appointed our own officers", she said, "and members took turns giving demonstrations. In the spring we received garden seeds and were occupied with planting and growing. Meetings consisted of opening, business, contest, talk or demonstration.

"We were told that our club was operating on an experimental basis. This was the first in the province. We grew



Garden Club Enthusiasts — L to R, Miss Priscilla Mewha, Mrs. Norma Gray, Mrs. Vera Macdonald, Mr. P. D. Hargrave.



Learning Floral Arrangements through 4-H.

asparagus, fruit trees, rhubarb, etc., from the horticultural station, and had, too, our regular vegetable and flower garden.

"The boys' wheat club had been organized before the garden club. The Wheat Pool was interested, and the horticultural station through the Provincial Government. The Wheat Pool agent, Mr. Eshom, was the boys' leader, and Mrs. Sharpe the girls' leader".

One of the highlights of the season in 1941 was the summer trip to Lethbridge, described by "Club Reporter" in a press clipping preserved in J. W. Eshom's Brooks Club file. It was on July 17 that the joint club (the girls' garden club and the junior grain club) left Brooks for this weekend trip. Mrs. Sharpe was in charge of the girls, and the boys were accompanied by their leader, J. W. Eshom.

They all met at the Wheat Pool elevator in Brooks, and loaded their bed rolls and suit cases into Meador's light delivery truck. They then climbed aboard Shankey's big truck, for which a special permit had been obtained for the trip.

The party stopped for a swim at the Oldman River, three miles north of Taber, and after lunch they proceeded to the town where they were shown through the cannery. Arriving in Lethbridge, they found that their home for the next two or three days was one of the barns at the exhibition grounds. The building, however, was well fitted to accommodate them, and boasted electric lights, running water, and a spacious cook stove and two long divisions which served as bedrooms.

Next day (Friday), the club members toured the experimental station, and while they were at lunch several large cars drew up. They were loaned by the staff of the experimental station, and in them the boys and girls drove to a coal mine and were conducted down the shaft. They saw the Lethbridge Herald go to press, went through radio station C.J.O.C. and the Crystal Dairy. From there they visited the power house and the airport and returned in the evening for a campfire wiener roast.

Saturday morning allowed an opportunity for shopping, then onto the truck and away for home.

One of the best things about the garden clubs, Mrs. Heinrichs felt, was that each took turns at speaking and reporting on events of interest.

And this was important. Ed Ness, now Head of the Field Service Department of the Alberta Wheat Pool in Calgary, spoke of how these clubs brought out the girls, and gave them confidence and poise. He mentioned that around 1951 he had a garden club at Hanna with some twenty members. In the course of his travels he stopped at a farm house where the 12-year old daughter was so shy that she would not join them for dinner. Two years later, she was chairing achievement day.

In his annual report for 1940, the Director of Junior Work for the Alberta Department of Agriculture, W. J. Elliott, advised:

Last spring a new plan was tried in the organization of Girls' Garden Clubs in the irrigation district surrounding Brooks. These are an experiment on the part of the Department of Agriculture, and in carrying them out they had the assistance of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Each girl conducted a home garden vegetable plot. They grew all the common vegetables, and the first question was with regard to properly laying out and handling such a plot, with a view not only to supplying the home with sufficient vegetables during the summer season, but also with a view to growing those suitable for canning and, of course, sufficient for storage.

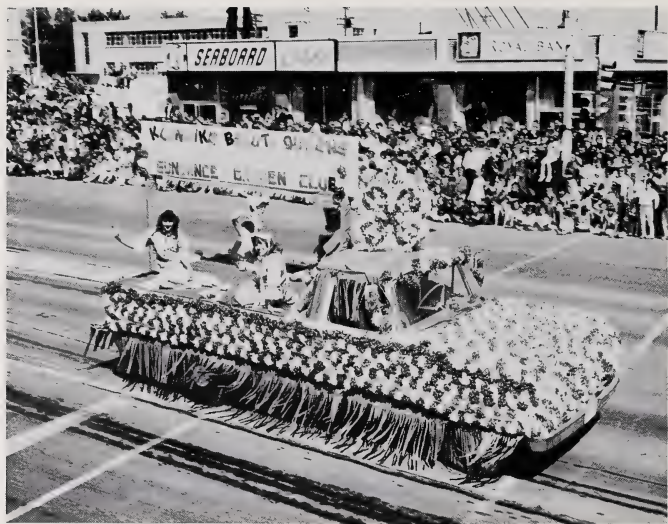
On August 2nd. these club girls organized a huge field day on the Government's Horticultural Station at Brooks. Over 300 club members and their friends gathered for a tour of the orchards at the station, lectures, pictures and games with, of course, a most enjoyable picnic lunch and dance in the evening, to which the boys' clubs were invited.

"We didn't have much in those days, but what we had we thoroughly enjoyed", said P. D. Hargrave. Mr. Hargrave is Superintendent of the Horticultural Station at Brooks. He and the Wheat Pool elevator agent at Brooks, J. W. Eshom, were largely responsible for the origin of the Brooks Girls' Garden Club.

Learning
by
Doing











There were early clubs at Brooks, Bow Slope, Duchess, Gem and Tilley; and associated with them from the Home Economics section of the Alberta Department of Agriculture was Miss Vera Richards (later Mrs. Macdonald), Supervisor of the section, who was appointed to that position in 1940. The first Supervisor of Girls' Clubs as such was Miss Margaret Fraser, and she was followed by Miss Priscilla Mewha.

Dave Davison of Calgary was the contact with the Wheat Pool, Mr. Hargrave said, and at the same time he credited a great deal of the success of those first girls' garden clubs to the interest and effort of the Wheat Pool elevator agent at Brooks, J. W. (Wilber) Eshom.

"What we tried to do in these clubs was different from the boys' clubs", Mr. Hargrave explained. "We believed that we should hold a girl for three or four years. During that time we wanted to give her a background into all the facets that would fit her into the home. In the summer, gardening was the activity, with each year a different project. Winter projects included such endeavours as canning, sewing and interior decorating. To do this we gave them, for each project, definite outlines that they had to complete and fill. This was something that the boys' clubs of that time did not have, but the idea has since been developed".

Each girl had to prepare a project book, and a great deal of ingenuity went into their preparation. Most of them were put together in the style of a three-ringed binder, measuring ten or eleven inches by eight or nine. The backs of some were of varnished wood, suitably inscribed. Others were cloth covered and embroidered. One of them had backs of plastic-covered cardboard; but between the cardboard and the transparent plastic were everlasting flowers, in a tastefully arranged border.

This last was the work of the previously-mentioned Helen Edwards, of that first Girls' Garden Club at Brooks. On the front page was inserted:

I submit this book with gratitude to:

The Alberta Wheat Pool
The Department of Agriculture
Mr. Hargrave and
Mr. Freng.

Then followed "A Story of Club Work". Miss Edwards related how in 1940, the Alberta Wheat Pool decided to organize clubs for rural girls similar to the existing wheat clubs for boys. She tells how the first five clubs were organized in the Eastern Irrigation District towns of Brooks, Bow Slope, Duchess, Gem and Tilly. In each town, a meeting was held by the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. directors, and club leaders were chosen.

At the organization meeting of the Brooks club on May 4, 1940, Mr. Eshom spoke of the work of the wheat clubs and outlined the objectives of the garden clubs. Mr. Hargrave presented project handbooks and explained their use. Mr. M. L. Freng, district agriculturist at Brooks and Head of the Provincial Horticultural Station at that time, spoke on home improvement, while Miss Dakin from the Alberta Department of Agriculture in Edmonton talked about the value and use of vegetables.

Officers elected at that meeting were: President, Donalene Robinson; Vice President, Margaret Hanson; Honorary President, Mrs. Ericson, and Secretary, Phyllis Sunstrum. Mrs. Graham and Mr. Eshom took a prominent part in organization of the club.

"There is hardly one of these garden club youngsters who has not done extremely well", Mr. Hargrave remarked. "Some are on the farm and others have gone into other walks of life. But wherever they went, the training they received in these girls' clubs provided a useful foundation for the future. We insisted right from the beginning", he said, "that the girls had to run the meeting; an opening, a business session, an educational session and a fun session".

A leaders' course at the Olds School of Agriculture offered incentive and a background of information for those who were guiding the activities of the clubs. Leaders were encouraged to take a senior club member with them where possible.

At these leaders' meetings, project outlines were explained that were to be covered at the following session — what materials they would receive and how the gardens were to be planted. The art of judging was explained and an endeavour was made to give these leaders a background of understanding. What they received, in fact, was a very extensive course in horticulture.

Right from the start of the garden clubs we had local leadership, Mr. Hargrave said. From the Department of Agriculture too, Miss Dakin and Mrs. Macdonald were extremely interested and helped in every way possible. And it wasn't always a joy ride for them. Mr. Hargrave tells of the time that he took Mrs. Macdonald around to visit the gardens in an old farm truck. The roads were not of the best and the ride was far from comfortable. It was so uncomfortable, in fact, that on the way back Mrs. Macdonald insisted that it was her turn to drive.

Then the idea of taking the girls on tour came along. This was usually a summer project. And the short course was introduced with the top girl from each club being taken to Edmonton — at the expense of the Wheat Pool. On December 23, 1940, P. D. Hargrave was writing to Extension Director Putnam to the effect that the Wheat Pool had instructed Mr. Eshom that the five winning girls from the Garden Clubs were to go to Edmonton for the Short Course on December 15 and 16, and he understood that Mr. Eshom was to drive them.

Then, in the winter of 1941, we find the Director of Extension writing:

As a further encouragement to junior club work, the Department proposes to institute a short course of one week at the Olds School of Agriculture in the month of July for proficiency winners of all junior clubs. Details with respect to this course are now in process of preparation.

As mentioned, the Department looked on these early girls' garden clubs as an experiment, and it was some time before the go-ahead was given for expansion. But Miss Dakin had spread the word around, and it wasn't long before other districts were making enquiries.

Up at Willingdon, District Agriculturist Fred Magera had heard what they were starting at Brooks, and he was intrigued with the idea. Why can't we have something of the kind up here?, he wanted to know. So he wrote to P. D. Hargrave: "I would be glad to hear of your plan of attacking this work as Miss Dakin stated that you had a number of these clubs in operation". It seems that Mr. Magera had already initiated in

his territory garden clubs that were closely connected with the towns; so he was naturally curious about these girls' garden clubs.

But he was to be disappointed. The decision from headquarters was that these garden clubs in the Eastern Irrigation District were purely on an experimental basis, and that there was to be no extension to other areas for the time being.

On December 23, 1940, Mr. Hargrave was reporting on the first season's activities as follows:

During the first two weeks of May five Garden Clubs were organized in the Eastern Irrigation District under the sponsorship of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Alberta Wheat Pool. The aim was to see if such clubs would be practical to offer to girls of teen age throughout the province.

The clubs followed through a summer program as outlined in the Garden Project Hand Book. Each club was under the guidance of a leader selected by a community committee responsible to the sponsors for club work in their district. The leader worked directly with the supervisor in carrying out the program of gardening and club meetings. To assist her a Leader's Handbook has been started. This handbook can be greatly improved upon and added to, from season to season, as solutions to new problems arise. The leaders of these clubs attended a short leaders' course. All leaders benefited due to the experience, one club in particular which had a bad start, was made a real success due to the leaders' meeting. This would seem the first time that club leaders were brought together in this way.

Club members planted and grew a garden. The garden was of a certain minimum size or larger. Developing from the garden were the exhibiting at local shows and the club achievement day, judging, and actual gardening experience. The latter, surprisingly, seemed to be greatly appreciated particularly by the more mature club members. Each club held at least six meetings, one a month, at which the girls themselves were responsible for the carrying out of the program. The leader could do any coaching necessary,

before or after the meeting, but during the meeting she was encouraged not to take any part.

The club program was opened and carried on in a business-like manner. Four members discussed gardening topics outlined in their project books. The supervisor was asked to add any points to the discussion and for any constructive criticism of the program and the manner in which it was carried out. After closing the business meeting some form of entertainment was encouraged and later refreshments were served. New committees for each meeting were appointed from the chair to look after each section of the club program. This gave every member the opportunity of taking some responsibility for the success of the club.

The Garden Clubs were invited to attend a Field Day, held jointly with the Junior Grain Clubs, on the grounds of the Provincial Horticultural Station. Each club member was expected to take part in an Achievement Day and to prepare a project book. The project book was to include the given material, notes, references, articles, etc., that might be of interest. The Achievement Day was to be conducted by the local committee and judged by the supervisor. The gardens were judged by a neutral party whose report has been received.

Individual club members were scored on their gardens, achievement day display, record book, story of club work, club demonstration work, garden picture and attendance. The inter-club scores were also arrived at from this. The winner of each club has been invited by the sponsor to the Seed Fair Short Course, and the winning club will be presented with a suitable trophy signifying their success.

In 1941, Girls' Garden Clubs were started at Olds and in 1942 we find eight of these clubs established — five centred at Brooks and three in the vicinity of Olds. These continued during 1943 and were expanded in 1944 to fourteen clubs with 190 members. In 1945, there were twenty of these clubs sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool and the Alberta Department of Agriculture.

MORE GIRLS' CLUBS

The garden clubs were slowly becoming established but they were not the only club activity in which farm girls were interested.

As early as 1917 Miss A. M. Lavallee, Domestic Science Instructor at the Vermilion School of Agriculture was organizing girls' clubs. In that year she went out with the agricultural agent to all schools in the Vermilion area taking part in the school fair program. She there noted the number of girls, their ages, and their inclinations in each school.

On the strength of Miss Lavallee's observations, girls' clubs were started in five districts. There were to be at least six girls above the age of eight years in a club. Girls in their teens who lived in the district might become members even though not enrolled at the school. The clubs met once a week, and instruction was given in sewing, cooking and canning. Sewing for the Red Cross was also undertaken.

The girls met once a week in 1917, but in the year following, the work of these clubs became less active "owing chiefly to the fact that there was no Domestic Science instructor to assist and encourage it". The Vermilion School of Agriculture did not admit regular students during 1919 because of the prevalence of influenza, and there is no further mention of these clubs.

In 1917 also, girls' clubs are mentioned briefly in the Claresholm School of Agriculture report. This seems, however, to have been a passing phase, since no mention is made in the following two years. In 1917, nineteen of these clubs were organized in the vicinity of Claresholm. There were eight members in each club and meetings were held for three weeks featuring demonstrations in sewing and cooking.

But by 1918, girls' clubs sponsored by the Alberta Women's Institute were meeting for social and educational improvement. Fourteen of these clubs were organized that year, and among their objectives were "encouragement of agriculture by means of garden competitions etc."

Miss Mary MacIsaac was Superintendent of Women's Institutes for the Alberta Department of Agriculture at that time. "The

objects of these clubs", she reported, "are the improvement of social and educational conditions among girls of school and adolescent age in rural and other communities, by means of:

1. Holding meetings to promote social and civic activities.
2. Establishing organized recreation for the girls of the communities.
3. Encouraging the study of English Literature, Drama, Music, Art, etc.
4. The study of Home Economics (Foods and Cookery, Household Sanitation, Sewing, Textiles, Home Nursing, First Aid, etc.)
5. The study of any subject which the members of the club desire.
6. The encouragement of agriculture by means of garden competitions, etc.

Some of these objectives it seems received less attention as the years went by. In 1940, with Women's Extension part of the recently organized Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture, we find twenty-one girls' clubs enrolled for a course on "How to be Well Groomed and Well Dressed", while twenty-five groups were taking a sewing course and three groups "Foods and their Preparation". The trend of these clubs appeared now to be more towards home economics and less towards the fine arts as such.

It was with the appointment of Miss Vera Richards (now Mrs. Macdonald) that this phase of girls' club work began. In the winter of 1939-40 she was on the staff of the Vermilion School of Agriculture. Then in the summer of 1940 she was up in the Peace River region; in the areas of Grande Prairie, Peace River and Berwyn.

It was the second year of the war. There was no bus and there were only two trains a week to the Peace River region. To get word of proposed meetings and demonstrations to the women's and girls' organizations she often had to ask one of the train men to deliver a message. Sometimes she rode freight but for the most part she had to depend on the people themselves to get her around. She tells how on occasion she sat on the highway

with her suitcase and demonstration material waiting for a ride, or tried a garage to see who was going her way.

The district agriculturist at Berwyn had joined the Navy, and the last she saw of him was when he dropped her at Notikewin. From there she drove with the local minister to attend a demonstration at North Star. The only girls' clubs at that time were the Women's Institute Girls' Clubs and these she visited in the course of her travels.

It was only for the summer that Miss Richards travelled this area, and in the fall she expected to return to Vermilion. Instead, she was appointed supervisor of the newly created Women's Extension Service in Edmonton and began at once on her new duties.

Winter was coming and one of Miss Richard's first responsibilities was to prepare projects for the girls of the garden clubs started at Brooks. Gardening was their summer activity, but for winter they turned to thoughts of the home. Etiquette and Grooming, Sewing, and Foods were among the first projects prepared for the clubs. Home Decoration and Home Management followed later.

Of Girls' Club work in 1941 she was reporting:

This department has long recognized the need of some home economics instruction for 'teen age girls in rural areas, and has expanded its program in this respect as far as the present limited staff and funds will allow. The Department is now in contact with 90 girls' clubs, of which 40 are Women's Institute girls' clubs, 40 are clubs organized under the Department, and 10 are garden clubs sponsored in co-operation with the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Lesson material and supervision is supplied to all of these clubs. The projects are being planned in progression and with some continuity of subject matter from term to term. A convention for the Women's Institute girls' clubs was held at the Olds School of Agriculture in the summer. There was also a leader's short course held at Olds for the leaders of the ten girls' garden clubs.

In 1942, a Supervisor of girls' clubs was appointed in the person of Miss Margaret Fraser. Miss Richards was supervisor

of all women's and girls' extension, while direct supervision of girls' club work now became the responsibility of Miss Fraser. There were no home economists at that time, Miss Fraser (now Mrs. Arnold) recalls, and she had to depend on the district agriculturists for assistance. But it was wartime and the gas supply of even the district agriculturists was limited. Not only had she to carry her own requirements when travelling, but demonstration material too; and she was away sometimes for six weeks at a time.

She tells how District Agriculturist Fred Magera came into her office one day and asked her to spend some time in his district of Willingdon. For three weeks she travelled around with him. Magera would arrange the meetings and the two of them would go from one to the other. Sometimes they would be meetings of women and girls and sometimes men's meetings. This went on throughout the country.

Passenger trains were not too plentiful at that time but you could buy a ticket for a freight train. And hotels in those days were not what they are today. There was no running water and no electric light. She often drove to her destination for five or six miles with a team; some of the younger children might pick her up at the station or hotel. And there were times, she said, when she was thankful that she had been raised on a farm and knew how to handle a team.

Winter and summer Miss Fraser travelled, and on the train she always carried a thermos of coffee or tea and a rug. She had to sleep part of the time on the train. Having been brought up in a country school she knew how to start a fire and often had to do that to warm up the place of meeting.

She would make up a schedule six weeks or two months ahead. Sometimes a women's group would decide to start a girls' club and sometimes the district agriculturist would want a club started. In those days you had to go out into the country to get things started. People didn't know about the clubs and you had to tell them. Every possible contact had to be made through such channels as the schools and women's organizations.

The first three trips Miss Fraser made were down to the Brooks and Olds districts to the garden clubs. Then she was up

in the Peace River country, down to Lethbridge and up to Willingdon and St. Paul. She speaks of Markerville as a very active district as far as girls' clubs were concerned. They were community minded people and had a tremendous number of good leaders in that district.

The point is that Miss Fraser was alone at that time. She was carrying the full responsibility of organization and maintenance of these clubs. The first thing she did was to work out with Mr. Hargrave at Brooks material for the girls' garden clubs. A three-year project was the objective and material had to be prepared for that period. Winter work as well as summer work had to be prepared and books of instruction and lesson plans made ready.

The girls were encouraged to keep records. The prepared lessons and instruction provided a basis on which the girls could build their own material. They had to go further and hold meetings, and each girl received marks for the way she took part in the meetings. It was the girls' clubs under Miss Fraser that led the way into project material that later became an integral part of Alberta 4-H.

Then in 1943, with the introduction of a full-time economist, Miss E. R. Anderson, the groundwork was laid for assistance to the rural women of Alberta, similar to that provided by the district agriculturist for the men.

In the following year, courses in up-to-date meals and etiquette were added to the girls' club subjects available for study. It was in that year too, that four more permanent district home economists were appointed, bringing the total number of permanent appointments to five. Three women of the Schools of Agriculture staff also assisted during the summer. Since the home economists were closely associated with the girls' clubs in Alberta in the course of their regular duties, their names will be of interest.

As well as Miss Anderson, the first home economist appointed in the province, the others on a permanent basis were Miss Norma J. Hogg, Calgary; Miss LaPrile Low, Lethbridge; Miss Edna Virginia Alford, Red Deer, and Miss Rose Faryna, Willingdon.



An Early Clothing Club Achievement Day.



The Etiquette of a Formal Tea.

In July, 1943, Girls' Club Week at the Olds School of Agriculture was initiated. It was held in co-operation with the Women's Institute Girls' Clubs. Thirty-two efficiency winners there took part in a well rounded program of lectures, demonstrations, sports and social activities. Emphasis was placed on the part clubs could take in the war effort, and the effect of wartime conditions and restrictions on the home life of the members.

In the following year, 1944, two \$75.00 scholarships from the Wheat Board Monies Trust Fund were awarded to the most efficient girls in attendance for the winter course at the School of Agriculture — one for the Garden and Home Economics Clubs, and the other for the Women's Institute Girls' Clubs. Winner of the scholarship for the Garden and Home Economics Clubs was Stephanie Saykewich of Derwent. Maxine Workun of Calmar was the winner for the Women's Institute Girls' Clubs.

Girls' Club Week proved so popular that in 1946 two of them were held; one at Olds and one at Vermilion. There were 84 efficiency winners in attendance, and 50 clubs took advantage of the opportunity to send a second girl to Club Week. In each case they paid transportation costs and room and board at Club Week for the girl who placed second in the year's work. Girls' club work was progressing; and seven former efficiency winners were now serving as club leaders.

Also in 1946, the scholarships donated from the Wheat Board Monies Trust Fund were increased to four. The Alberta Wheat Pool increased its awards to girls' clubs carrying on garden projects. Besides sending efficiency winners to club week, they awarded \$5.00 to the girl in each club with the best cared-for garden plot, and made an award to the club standing highest in each Home Economist's district.

This year, for the first time, the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work sponsored a competition for Girls' Clubs. The competition was in clothing. A team of two girls was selected from each of the 40 clubs in the Province carrying out a clothing project. Elimination contests were then held in each Home Economist's district, and regional eliminations were conducted at Calgary and Edmonton. The final competition was then held in Edmonton in October and the Provincial team selected to take

part in the competitions in Toronto in November. Della and Betty Campbell of Stettler made up the team from Alberta, and they placed second in the National Competitions.

During the summer of 1947, at the Junior Club week at Olds, four members of 4-H Clubs from Montana were guests of Alberta Junior Clubs. Then in September, a return visit was paid to the State 4-H Club Congress at Bozeman, Montana, by two boys and two girls from Alberta. This was the beginning of an exchange that has carried on through the years and has proved a still further broadening experience for those privileged to enjoy the trips.

In 1947, the leaders training courses had expanded to three. One was held in April for leaders of clubs carrying gardening projects, and one each at the Olds and Vermilion Schools of Agriculture for the other club leaders. The garden club leaders course was an outstanding success; and of 30 clubs undertaking this project, all 30 completed their work. As well, two district leaders' courses were held, one at Athabasca and one at Red Deer. These were for one day, and were to assist leaders with their immediate problems.

Since 1926, when the first farm boys' camp in Alberta was conducted by the Vegreville Exhibition Association, this activity has proved popular. In 1945, with the war drawing to a close, camps at the fairs were held for both boys and girls. Girls' camps were held that year at the Red Deer and Vegreville fairs. Boys' camps were conducted at the Lloydminster, Vermilion and Vegreville fairs.

At the camps, the girls received instruction on judging and exhibiting at fairs in an attempt to raise the standards in foods and clothing both for home and exhibition. The boys received instruction from J. E. Hawker and W. C. Gordon of the School of Agriculture staff at Olds, from B. T. Stephanson, the Department's Agricultural Engineer, and from W. Lobay, Provincial Weed Supervisor. The boys studied and observed exhibition of livestock and fair displays, and received instruction in problems of soil conservation, weed control, livestock judging and grain judging. Competitions were held and prizes awarded.

Attendance at the camps was: Lloydminster, 80; Vermilion, 72; Vegreville, girls 20, boys 50; Red Deer, girls 28.

In 1948, we learn that "the Alberta Girls' Club uniforms are proving very popular". The girls made these uniforms themselves, and wore them at club weeks, competitions and other get-togethers, as well as for out-of-the-province trips. It was noted too in 1948 that "this year for the first time, joint Boys' and Girls' Club weeks were held at the Schools of Agriculture. These proved quite satisfactory and should be successful when a few details are worked out".

There were 65 clothing clubs and 40 clubs taking food projects that year. Nine clubs completed the clothing eliminations and seven completed the food judging contest. The idea of the eliminations was to select teams to represent Alberta in the National Junior Judging Contests held annually at Toronto during the week of the Royal Winter Fair. These competitions were now under the auspices of the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work. The provincial eliminations were held at Olds, and the winners there in the clothing competition were Audrey Baker and Audrey Carlson of the Great Bend Girls' Club at Ardley. First in the food contest were Joyce and Marilyn Beaton of the Bow Island Girls' Club.

In the Dominion contests the Alberta food team stood second and the clothing team third, but in the food project Joyce Beaton had the highest individual score.

In 1952, the Extension Nutritionist, Miss B. J. Lewis, reported, "Probably the most far reaching food and nutrition work is that with the girls' food clubs. Seventy-two clubs, 15 taking food projects and 57 garden projects, studied the importance of good food to good health. Not only the girls themselves but their families and their communities benefit from what the girls learn and practise in these projects".

In 1953, district home economists gave assistance to 169 girls' clubs with a membership of 2,177. One hundred and sixty-two achievement days were held with over 10,000 people attending. Thirty-three leaders' courses were conducted during the year and attended by all club leaders in the districts con-

cerned. About 30 per cent of the district home economists' time was now being spent on club work. In spite of this, public interest in the work was increasing to such an extent that the home economists were unable to organize all the clubs requested.

Miss Margaret K. Fraser, after serving for almost 13 years with the Department, resigned in November, 1954. As Supervisor of Girls' Clubs for the Province, she had been responsible in great measure for the interest in and success of the clubs. Miss Fraser was succeeded by District Home Economist Miss Priscilla Mewha of Edmonton, who as assistant supervisor of 4-H activities had as her special field direction of girls' club work.



Miss Margaret K. Fraser

AMALGAMATION

And now, while the district home economists remained active in supervision of the girls' clubs, more and more responsibility for direction and activity of the clubs was becoming the function of the Junior Activities and Youth Training Branch. Members of all junior farm clubs in the province were regarding their clubs as parts of the whole 4-H movement, and not merely as pig clubs, calf clubs, crops clubs, garden clubs, clothing clubs and the like.

But it wasn't until 1943 that we find some consideration being given to bringing together the various junior club activities of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. In that year, Supervisor of Junior Activities S. H. Gandier was reporting:

Until this year no specific name had been adopted to include the several kinds of clubs conducted by the Department. The three divisions of club work were known as the livestock clubs, the crop clubs and the girls' clubs, and the supervision of each has been in the hands of three separate Department officers. As a step toward unifying the club work, it was decided to adopt a name that would embrace all of the junior club projects, whether on the farm or in the home, and the name "The Alberta Junior Farm and Home Clubs" was officially approved. Further steps for the closer association of all club work in the Province are under consideration.

In 1940, the urgent cry was still for local leadership and Director of Junior Work W. J. Elliott was advising: "We again emphasize the need for some form of training in club leadership for those who are graduating from our clubs. At the age of 21 they cease as club members, and at present there is little further training for them. In these boys and girls there is a trained force which, with coaching in club leadership, might enable us to go much further with grain and livestock club activities".

And in 1944, local leadership is becoming more and more appreciated as the mainstay of club work, with S. H. Gandier gratefully acknowledging "the splendid work done by many local club leaders and others who, through their genuine interest in the welfare of the young people, have given freely of their time and talents."

"Unfortunately", he goes on, "a dearth of competent and willing local leadership exists in many rural communities, and this is one of our major problems in the establishment of junior activities on a sound and permanent basis. Of course, quite a number of ex-club members now volunteer their services as local leaders, but under present shortage of farm labour and with so many of the younger farm people enlisted in all branches of the war services, this source of leadership is more limited than in normal times".

Supervision of the crop clubs, which from the beginning had been a function of the Field Crops Branch, was transferred in 1944 to the School of Agriculture at Olds, and placed there under supervision of J. E. Hawker, Instructor in Field Husbandry. E. C. Hallman of the Field Crops Branch in Edmonton, had for a number of years looked after these clubs, and while the Field Crops Branch continued to help, responsibility now became that of the Olds School of Agriculture.

But the crop clubs did not long remain at Olds. Transferred back to Edmonton in 1945, they came for the first time under direct supervision of the Supervisor of Junior Activities.

Further consolidation occurred in 1949 with transfer of Miss Margaret Fraser from the Women's Division of the Extension Service to the Junior Activities Division. This provided a further move in line with the Department's policy of consolidating all work with farm young people. In this year too, C. L. Usher, a recent graduate from the University of Alberta and a former club member, was appointed assistant supervisor to Mr. Black.

Mr. Usher's interest in club work went back to the early 1930's and the start of the Scollard Junior Beef Calf Club. He was raised, with two brothers and two sisters, on a ranch at Scollard. Before the start of the calf club, these boys used to feed calves and take them down to the junior class of the Calgary Spring Show.

Then the idea grew, with encouragement from his father, of a beef club locally. This would be better than simply feeding a calf. So the Scollard Junior Beef Club was born. In 1936, Les Usher was awarded the showmanship cup provided for the club



C. L. Usher, who progressed from 4-H Member, through Supervisor, to his present position as Deputy Minister of Youth.

by Adams, Wood and Weiller. In 1939 and again in 1941, the award was won by his sister Jean.

George Black was supervisor at that time, and with a membership of forty, the Scollard Club developed into one of the leading clubs in the province. Achievement Day in the spring became one of the social events of the year. It was unusual for a beef club at that time to attract so much attention. Mr. Usher senior was always interested in the Scollard Beef Club and was club leader for many years.

When he was around thirteen, Les Usher went away to school in Victoria, B.C., joined the armed forces during the war, attended the University of Alberta, and in 1949 following graduation joined the Junior Activities Division of the Alberta Department of Agriculture as mentioned.

But about the Scollard Beef Club. His father, Mr. T. Usher, tells how reluctant Les was to leave for school that year. He had

twice won the Adams, Wood and Weiller award for showmanship, and thought he should at least have a chance to win it for a third time before leaving. Harvey Adams, said Mr. Usher, came up every year and brought with him buyers to look over the calves that the boys and girls had for sale.

District Agriculturist Bert Whitbread had a great deal to do with the Scollard club. There was not the knowledge of calves and club procedure among the boys and girls in those days, Mr. T. Usher said, and they had to learn from the beginning. They met at the Scollard store, and one time when George Black was there they were coaching the club members in the conduct of a meeting. A motion had been seconded and approved, and another motion was put forward. This was seconded in due course, but those in charge wondered if the youngsters were not perhaps learning too quickly when one small boy piped up "I'll third the motion". But that was how they learned and how confidence was gained.

Mr. Usher related how the club had to raise one third of the prize money. The provincial and dominion governments would then together provide the other two-thirds. The club members would choose the best things they had done at the school Christmas concert, and with them would put on a calf club concert. They had a large picture of a cow to go at the back of the stage, and would start off with their theme song "Home on the Range". One or two of the boys would be wearing chaps.

Some of the fathers could pay for the calves. Others were provided for the members who made repayment at the time of sale. "We didn't know much about leaders then", Mr. Usher said. He was very interested in the young people and helped them at every opportunity, but he didn't consider himself a leader.

He told how essays were part of the club work and how the essays were sent up to Edmonton to be judged. In his essay, one boy who had an Aberdeen Angus calf said "the first thing I'd do when I got my calf home would be to have him dehorned". To which the judge replied that was the first time he had heard that there were horns on an Aberdeen Angus.

An essay written by young Les at that time on "Why I became a club member", embodied three main points, he recalled: He wanted to make some money; the other fellows were joining; and he thought it would be fun. What the club members did with that money too is interesting, and the flood of bicycles into the district after the first sale of calves tells its own story.

The change in quality of cattle as a result of those early club activities was remarkable, Mr. T. Usher noted. "You couldn't fail to notice it", he said. "We started with cattle of all colours, and ended with lovely white-faced cattle in that country. There were Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus too; all good, high quality cattle. The Big Valley country was famous for its cattle even before the club started, and a lot of good beef went out of that country in the early days. But the clubs certainly upgraded the livestock".

There were many amusing incidents. Not so amusing at the time perhaps, but not tragic when recalled after the years. About Allan Gibson, one of those early helpers of the grain clubs, Mr. Usher recalled with appreciation the assistance he gave to junior club work in the early days. At that time the name of the club had been changed from the Scollard to the Scollard-Rumsey Club, but except for one year the achievement day was always held at the stockyards in Scollard. The parents would be out in force and provide the much-needed refreshments.

But about Allan Gibson. "We were having the show at Rumsey at that time", Mr. T. Usher recalled, "and had to weigh the calves at the elevator. It was raining hard and the ground was wet. Allan took hold of the halter rope of one of the calves but couldn't get the calf to cross the track. I told him I'd give him a hand, and with that the calf took one great bound across the track, landed on Gibson and put him in the water hole, then away went the calf along the main road. Two boys took their horses and brought back the calf on the end of a rope". Many of the club calves were ranch calves and not too easy to handle except by the boys and girls they knew.

By 1949, summer camps, short courses and rallies were now part of the general club program, and all were well attended. International trips were also become a regular feature. Two

boys and two girls from the Montana 4-H Clubs attended Club Week at Olds in July, and in return a similar delegation from Alberta Junior Farm and Home Clubs were present at the Montana State 4-H Congress at Bozeman in September.

The Alberta members were selected on the basis of their achievements in club work, age, personality and speaking ability. In 1949, they were Helen Wagner, Nanton; Marie Griffith, Rumsey; M. Waddle, Vauxhall, and George Brebner, Spruce Grove. Early that year too, Supervisor G. S. Black was elected to the presidency of the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work.



Some 4-H World Wheat Kings and Queens. L to R — Ronald Leonhardt, 1952-53 World Champion; Howard Roppel 1951 World Champion; Gail Adams, 1958 World Champion; Eleanor Richman, 1957 Reserve Champion; Ricky Sharpe, 1950 Champion.

And year after year, Alberta junior club members were making a name for themselves in the east; not only in the club contests but in the grain exhibits too. In 1948, twenty-one samples of wheat exhibited by Junior Club members from Alberta were awarded the first twenty awards. The other placed twenty-second.

At the Royal Winter Fair in the following year, Alberta juniors won first in the junior wheat section as well as the first eighteen awards in this class, along with the 24th., 25th., 29th.,

30th., 32nd., 33rd., and 35th. In all, Alberta won 25 of the 35 awards. Ricky Sharpe of the Munson Wheat Club won not only the first prize, but the reserve championship of the show with his sample of Thatcher wheat. From there on to the International Grain Show in Chicago, juniors and ex-juniors took prizes in wheat, oats and barley, with S. Pawlowski of Spedden winning the Oats Championship, and W. Skladen of Andrew receiving second.



THE NINETEEN-FIFTIES

Year after year club members returned with honours from the national contests. In 1950, two girls' teams from Alberta came back with national championships, while other teams stood second in beef, third in grain and sixth in dairying. The championship girls' teams were Opal Keller and Norma Stephenson of Cayley in the clothing contest, and Betty Brown and Helen Wagner of Nanton in the Foods competition.

Then in the junior grain section, for the first time in the history of the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, the World's Championship in wheat was won by a member of an Alberta Junior Club. He was Ricky Sharpe of Munson, who in the previous year had won the reserve championship. The reserve championship this year was won by another Alberta junior, Howard Roppel of the Rockyford Club.

Attendance at National Club Week was something to look forward to, and keen was the competition for this coveted award.

The year 1950 marked the twentieth Annual National Club week program conducted by the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work. It began on November 12, at the time of the Royal Winter Fair, and provides an illustration of how National Club Week functioned at that time. One hundred and sixteen club members attended, representing nine provinces and comprising fifty-eight provincial championship club teams. They travelled to and from Toronto that year over the main lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway from the West and of the Canadian National Railways from the East, with transportation provided by the two railways.

Several new features were introduced. They included breakfast meetings on three mornings, additional entertainment, greater participation on the part of the club members, work of a committee of extension officers on special events, and the supervision of provincial club groups by extension officers from their respective provinces. Programs at the three breakfast meetings, at which club members presided, included short talks by two club members and by a former member. Also addressing one of these meetings was John Fisher, who later based one of his Sunday

C.B.C. broadcasts on National Club Week, the Council, and club work across Canada.

The time of these fortunate members was fully occupied. At Toronto, apart from taking part in the project contests, they were taken on a sight-seeing tour of the city, attended a reception in The Royal York Hotel, were entertained at various functions, attended the Royal Winter Fair and the annual banquet, and engaged in educational tours in Toronto, Hamilton and the Niagara district.

The club members were entertained by the Canadian Spool Cotton Company at the Friendship Dance, by the Industrial and Development Council of Canadian Meat Packers at a luncheon following a tour of packing plants, by the Royal Winter Fair at the agricultural dinner and evening horse show on the opening day of the Fair, by Imperial Oil Limited at the Icecapades Show in the Maple Leaf Gardens, and by the International Harvester Company of Canada at dinner in Hamilton. The Massey-Harris Company gave a luncheon to the boys when they visited the Company's plants. At Hamilton, while the boys saw the International Harvester plants, the club girls visited Mercury Mills.

The principal features of the one-day program in Ottawa were a visit to Rideau Hall where the members were received by the Governor General and Lady Alexander, a meeting of the club members, a sight-seeing tour of the city, luncheon at the Chateau Laurier when the speaker was Dr. J. G. Taggart, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, a group photograph at the Peace Tower, and a tour of the Parliament Buildings.

Then came the time when members and leaders decided that they should have some kind of uniform for the clubs. So at their request uniforms were adopted and worn by members attending Club Weeks, on out-of-the-Province trips, at competitions and other club gatherings. That was in 1950.

The girls' uniform was a two-piece dress of maroon coloured cloth with a white cotton blouse. A shoulder bag of matching material carried the Junior Club crest. For dress wear the uniform was completed with a white felt beret and white gloves. The boys wore a maroon shirt, maroon sweater, grey flannel trousers and grey gabardine tie.

These colours were in vogue until in 1962 they were changed from maroon and white to green and white. This was in keeping with the National colours. At the same time a new uniform was introduced for Alberta club members. Basically, it consisted of grey trousers or grey skirts, with green blazer for both girls and boys.

Obtaining, training and maintaining good leaders continued something of a problem, but it was now being met in a more orderly manner. Leaders courses on provincial, regional and district bases were being conducted, while camps and short courses were held where older club members were given instruction in leadership and project work. With the girls' clubs, a system of junior leader training was also started, with members over 16 years of age who had completed at least three projects and who had been efficiency winners. They were required to carry a club project, but also were given credit for doing leadership work with the younger club members in some one field of their work.

Then came change of name. It was in 1952 that the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work changed their title to the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs, and with the other provinces falling in line, Alberta followed suit. Alberta club members were now linked in their activities with 4-H club members throughout the North American continent and throughout the world. Interest in agriculture and in the young people engaged in agriculture was never greater than at this time. With rapidly increasing populations and diminishing land resources, appreciation was growing of the farm as the basis of civilization and of life itself.

An outstanding event of 1953 was the winning of the T. Eaton scholarship by Bruce McDonald of Mannville. Mr. McDonald was a former 4-H club member and at the time of the award was attending the Vermilion School of Agriculture. In 1955, another former 4-H member was chosen from among applicants across Canada for the T. Eaton scholarship. He was Park Smiley Letts of Westlock and it was his intention to enroll in Agriculture at the University of Alberta in 1956.



Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs. Officers and Executive Committee Members 1960. Front row (seated L to R) — E. F. Pineau, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario; J. McArthur, Past President, Belleville, Ontario. (Royal Bank of Canada): J. E. Dube, President, Quebec, P.Q. Director of Extension, Quebec; J. C. Bremner, Vice-President, Fredericton, N.B. Director of Extension, New Brunswick. Back Row, L to R — J. D. Moore, Manager, Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs, Ottawa, Ontario; T. P. Devlin, Canadian National Railways, Winnipeg, Manitoba; J. C. Racine, Brampton, Ontario — Chairman, National 4-H Club Week Committee; Miss Marion Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, Ottawa, Ontario; C. L. Usher, Edmonton, Alberta. Supervisor of 4-H Clubs: G. L. Landon, Victoria, B.C., Chairman of the Agricultural Committee. (Director of Extension, British Columbia); Gordon Fox, Calgary, Alberta. (Canadian Bank of Commerce). Chairman Finance and Membership Committee.

Continued increase in 4-H membership made it necessary for the first time to have four club weeks during the summer of 1955. A total of 512 boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 21, each representing one 4-H club, attended as guests of the Alberta Department of Agriculture and the various sponsoring organizations. The balanced program of work, sports and social

activities was arranged to bring out the best in leadership qualities.

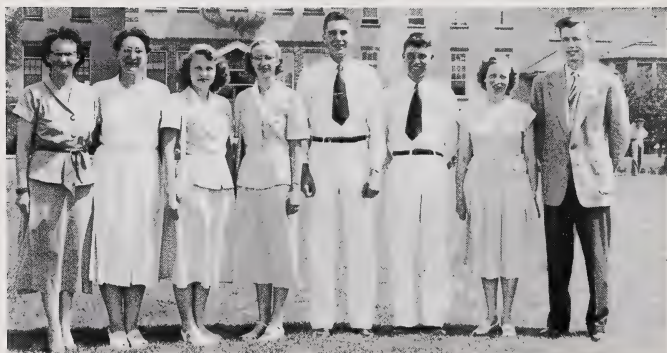
The 4-H Club movement suffered a profound loss in the death on January 14, 1956, of G. S. Black. Mr. Black had for many years directed junior farm and 4-H activities in Alberta and much of the program had been developed under his supervision. Succeeding Mr. Black as Supervisor was C. L. Usher, a former club member who since 1949 had been assistant to Mr. Black and closely associated with him in his work with the young people of the province.

Under the direction of Mr. Usher, a marked change occurred. The program was given added depth, and challenge marked the projects. Such things as project books and record keeping were stressed, and carcass grading and ribbon branding of beef were introduced. Through a knowledge of parliamentary procedure, public speaking, citizen development, career guidance, and other aspects of a well-rounded development program, members were being prepared to take their place in modern society.

A variety of major activities was started and special attention paid to the summer or off-season enterprises. Tours, exchanges, camps and other club activities increased in depth and number, and opportunities were provided to meet with members from other districts, other provinces and other countries. Alberta is proud of the steps taken towards all-year-round activity and development of its 4-H members. No province in Canada has done more in this direction.

While Mr. Usher would be the first to give credit to the loyalty and co-operation of his staff, 4-H leaders, members and supporters throughout the province, the fact remains that his was the direction and guidance. His policy of delegating as much responsibility to the members and leaders as possible, has resulted in a new awareness of the potential of the 4-H program and its effect on self development.

In 1956, the competitions previously conducted during National Club Week were discontinued, leaving more time for the interprovincial exchange of ideas, tours to places of national interest, talks by well-known Canadians and discussion groups among the members.



Travel and Exchange — Popular 4-H Activities.

These award trips are now provided by the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs with the understanding that the parent or legal guardian of each 4-H delegate agrees that the club member shall remain at all times with the club party.

Regulations governing National 4-H Club Week call for not more than 14 members from each province. They must have had at least two years of 4-H Club work and must be enrolled in a 4-H project in the year the award is won. They must also have reached their 16th. birthday, but not have reached their 22nd. birthday by November 1 of the year in which they are selected.

Former 4-H delegates are not eligible and club members must be single at the time the trip is taken.

Assistance from various organizations in support of 4-H club work continued down the years, and in 1956 the Supervisor of 4-H clubs for Alberta was reporting:

The Alberta Wheat Pool, the United Grain Growers, and the Line Elevators Farm Service continued to sponsor the grain, forage and garden projects on a provincial basis as they have done since these projects were started in this province. Their assistance in helping defray the cost of seed grain, garden seeds, transportation, room and board of club members from these projects to Club Week and of leaders to Leadership Courses amounted to \$7,442.31 this past year. Other assistance included the help of their field staff on numerous occasions and a number of prize awards for various club achievements.

Further, substantial assistance to the club program was given by the various livestock associations, service clubs, boards of trade, agricultural societies, exhibitions, and a large number of other interested organizations and individuals.

Then there was the assistance that had been offered from 1924 to 1961 by the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways. Writing in 1963, T. P. Devlin, Chief Agricultural officer for the Canadian National Railways, mentioned assumption by the railways during this period of responsibility for full cost of railway transportation from point of origin to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, and also a visit to the capital city of

Ottawa and return. For many years this concession applied to 14 members, representing seven projects in each province, journeying to the Royal and return. "The value underwritten by each Railway amounted to as much as \$8,000 annually per company", Mr. Devlin said.

"This contribution", he noted, "was considered by the Railways to be money well spent. From the time of Nationalization until the end of 1961, it can be stated without question, that the Railways' support was the principal means whereby National competitors were enabled to attend the Royal Winter Fair and compete in the competitions, and it also made possible the operation of such events by the National Council".

During 1959, the first major change in field crops project sponsorship was introduced since such sponsorship began in the early 1930's. This change involved the Alberta Wheat Pool, the United Grain Growers and the Line Elevators Farm Service relinquishing their individual sponsorship of wheat and forage, oats, and barley clubs respectively, and pooling their resources for joint sponsorship of field crops clubs. Under the new sponsorship assistance in the form of seed grain for club members was dispensed with in favour of recognition for work well done through the year. This recognition was for best standing crop, records, and achievement display. The Alberta Wheat Pool continued to sponsor the garden project.

The Canada Department of Agriculture was also providing assistance and in the 1958-59 fiscal year \$9,697.00 was received from this source for Alberta 4-H clubs. In addition, federal assistance was offered through federal pure bred sire policies, and in help from the field staff in judging and similar work.

The interest of 4-H leaders and their dedication to the service of helping young people of this province was shown and fittingly recognized in 1959 when 58 five-year certificates and 16 ten-year certificates were awarded.

And in that same year a new addition to 4-H in Canada was the inauguration of a National 4-H Exchange program with the U.S.A. Under this arrangement a 4-H delegate from each province attends annually the National 4-H Conference in

Washington. Expenses of these delegates are paid by the National Council.

It was decided that delegates from Alberta be selected at Provincial Eliminations on the same basis as delegates to National Club Week and State Club Congress in Montana, with the exception that more consideration be given to personality, ability to speak in public, and potential leadership ability. Delegates were to have reached their eighteenth birthday on or before January 1st. of the current year and not to have reached their twenty-second birthday on the opening day of the conference. Delegates were also to be members who had not previously won a trip to National Club Week or to the State 4-H Club Congress in Montana.

The first delegate from Alberta under this arrangement was Marjorie Newman from Blackie. In return, the U.S.A. sends a similar delegation to attend National 4-H Club Week in Canada.

In 1956, 4-H club activities became part of the Schools of Agriculture Branch, and on August 1, 1961, they were again transferred to the Extension Branch of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. This did not involve any change in the program of work, but made it possible to achieve a greater degree of co-ordination with the Extension program.

Public speaking had long been recognized as a worthwhile activity of the clubs, but not until 1959 did it become a widespread and regular activity. In that year, public speaking competitions were held in many districts. Then too, the Edmonton Exhibition sponsored a competition open to all district winners from Red Deer north, a project that met with a great deal of interest and suggested plans for expansion.

The following year saw a great increase in the number of clubs taking part in the public speaking program. The 4-H staff assisted with organization and sponsorship of a similar program in southern Alberta, and in 1961, the south half of the province for the first time was organized to carry on a program of public speaking in the majority of clubs. Organizations and firms provided assistance and the program concluded with competitions at club, district, regional and southern Alberta levels.



Public Speaking — A Major 4-H Activity.

The finals in the southern Alberta competition were sponsored by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Association, while the Edmonton Exhibition Association continued their sponsorship of the northern finals. Winner in the south in 1961 was Louise Kary of Delia. In the north, Bernard Payne of Vegreville was first in the finals.

The past fifteen years have seen many changes in 4-H outlook and objectives. The exciting thing was that they were getting away from projects and dealing more and more with young people. This was the concept they were fostering in the leaders' courses. You didn't have to be interested in livestock to lead a club. Interest in young people was the chief thing and you could call in specialists for the projects. Leadership courses were no longer directed towards the project.

Today, most 4-H councils involve club members as well as club leaders; one member and one leader from each club in the

district. They come together to discuss how club work should be conducted. It is no longer the district agriculturist and the Department staff who furnish all the ideas; the leaders, parents and members are thinking, planning and carrying out the programs for themselves.



In Session

ACTIVITY EXPANDS

4-H activity and interest was now spreading far beyond club confines, and former members were reluctant to sever their association with club work. Some, of course, continued as leaders, and their experience in the work proved of inestimable value. Then in 1952 a 4-H Alumni group was formed on the University of Alberta campus. This group carried on a program designed to further improve the work of the clubs and from time to time valuable program suggestions are passed on to the 4-H Branch.

In 1962, membership of this group had reached 70; all former 4-H members. In that same year too, college 4-H groups were organized at the Schools of Agriculture at Olds and Vermilion with a view to providing future leaders for the 4-H program.

How the University of Alberta 4-H Alumni started was told by Don Robertson at the annual meeting in Edmonton of the Canadian Council of 4-H Clubs in February, 1954.

The spark that really started the club, he said, came from members of one of the Alberta-Montana 4-H exchange visits. While at Bozeman, Montana, they had seen a University level alumni club in action and were greatly impressed. Finding interest keen when they returned, the start was made.

The objectives of the 4-H Alumni Club were three-fold: To promote, in 4-H members, an interest in higher education; to promote fellowship among 4-H alumni on the campus; and to aid the 4-H movement by keeping leaders interested in 4-H, doing extension work where possible, and assisting with suggestions on 4-H policy and practice.

Another development was the decision by former winners of National award trips to hold an annual reunion. These were delegates to National 4-H Club Week, the Montana 4-H Congress and the National 4-H Conference in Washington. Fifty persons attended this first reunion at the Banff School of Fine Arts, which was held on September 9, 10 and 11, 1960. So successful was this gathering that it has become an annual event.

Arrangements are made entirely by these former delegates, among whom a strong bond of fellowship exists. From meeting locally to talk about their experiences, the idea arose of a pro-

vincial conference, which resulted in the Banff annual meeting. At these reunions, the 4-H program is discussed and suggestions of interest are forwarded to the Department.

There developed in 1962 considerable interest in having included in the 4-H program projects in light horses. This interest stemmed mainly from the light horse associations. No such project had as yet been established in Alberta and it was felt at the time that this would not be in accordance with Department policy. The policy was to the effect that projects should be in the field of those things of some economic importance in agriculture or homemaking.

But interest in a light horse project increased to such an extent that in 1965 one or two were started on an experimental basis. In 1966 official sanction to this type of endeavour was granted, and in 1967 there were 23 of these clubs. Some of them were multi-project and some straight horse clubs.

Also in 1962, a Sweet Corn 4-H Club was started at Taber. This also was a pilot project and on an experimental basis only. But it was greeted with acclaim by the Lethbridge Herald and some of the residents of the area.

Said the Herald of March 6, 1962:

We were more than pleased the other day to read a news item from our eastern irrigated area stating that the 4-H Club in one region is undertaking a brand new tack the coming season — a 4-H Corn Club. In these days of a farm revolution which is sweeping the world, it is good to note that the Young Farmers and Famerettes are thinking that it is good training for them to look about for alternatives to take the place of some of the crops which, in the past 10 years or so have resulted in grain surpluses. It will do the younger fry good to do a little of the experimenting that has become necessary if our agriculture is to keep up with the “cost-price” squeeze. Older farmers are looking hard for new alternative crop programs that will help to mend their profit picture.

District Agriculturist Jerry Jones was the instigator of this Taber 4-H Corn Club. Ronald Johnson was elected President

with other officers Vice President Blayne Irving, Secretary Elizabeth Spanbauer, Treasurer Margaret O'Donnell and Club Reporter Ronald Holthe. Club Leader was Paul Gregas. The Club was sponsored jointly by Cornwall Canning Co. of Taber and Taber-Barnwell Cannery Growers Association.

A further step in co-ordination of 4-H club work occurred with introduction in 1961 of District 4-H Councils. The Councils were organized along prescribed lines suggested by the Department. Each consisted of a leader and member representation from every club in the district. The main purpose of these councils was to co-ordinate, organize and carry on inter-club activities in their districts. District Councils continued to increase in number and in 1963 one of them took first steps to assist with leadership training. In that year too, one Regional Council involving three District Councils went into operation.

And how the Edmonton Regional 4-H Council came into being is told by its first president, Allan Shenfield of Spruce Grove. Mr. Shenfield was originally a member of the Spruce Grove 4-H Club, and in 1950, upon his graduation from the Vermilion School of Agriculture, he became leader. People at that time were beginning to realize a little change, he said, but it was not until 1953 or 1954 that the district agriculturist receded into the background and the local people began to take over.

Some seven years ago, Mr. Shenfield decided that clubs should get together on more than the club level; that two or three clubs should be doing something together. At Spruce Grove they had put on curling bonspiels and invited other clubs to take part. Each year at the club leaders' conference he suggested that something of this kind should be done; that clubs should get together and form a council.

He tells how, as a result, a temporary board was set up that became the Edmonton Regional 4-H Council, on which he served for two years as president. "I was proud to do this", he said. "One has to carry out his convictions". This Regional Council brought together the districts of Stony Plain, Sturgeon and Strathcona, and by 1967 comprised 35 clubs of the area.

Then with the 50th. Anniversary of 4-H in Alberta approaching, the Edmonton Regional 4-H Council decided to do some-

thing about it. Mr. Shenfield tells of being down at the Montana 4-H Congress in 1964. It was the 50th. Anniversary of their 4-H movement, and one of the things that impressed him was a candle lighting ceremony. "There were youngsters there with tears in their eyes", he said. "This started me dreaming. I realized that in Alberta we were approaching a similar event in 1967".

So at the Regional Council meetings he suggested that something be done for the 50th. Anniversary, and in 1966 with some thirty interested people the idea started to gain momentum. Among them were Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Eric Cormack. What they did was to produce a pageant of Canadian History with each club taking one part. They named it the Centennial



Birthday Cake at the Jamboree, 1967.

4-H Jamboree and all 500 participants were 4-H members. The Jamboree was held on April 22, 1967 at the Edmonton Exhibition Grounds.

Letters had been sent out to all clubs in the province inviting them to join, and 105 individual clubs came to the show. They didn't come to see the show; they came to take part. Each club was asked to bring their club banner and a cake. A six-pound fruit cake was suggested, and out of these a nine-foot high birthday cake was prepared and decorated by Mrs. Jennie Sterling of Westlock.

Lieutenant-Governor Grant McEwan was the official patron and following his address the clubs paraded with their banners, two members to each. Then came the story of Canadian history with the years divided among the clubs. Each area of the region presented one-third, with the clubs of the Sturgeon area depicting the first thirty years. The native people were brought in too with seven of them performing for the occasion.

Everything was done by floodlight, with one part being prepared while another was in action. The commentary was on tape, and the show ended with fifty 4-H members holding candles. During the candlelighting ceremony, fifty years of 4-H in Alberta were portrayed.

The spirit was tremendous. Many of the people were from the southern part of the province; from Red Deer south. In the south there had been a snowstorm and some of the young people had walked two miles through the snowdrifts to board their bus for Edmonton. Among those present was Mrs. E. Ward Jones, wife of the founder of the first 4-H club in Canada; the club that was organized at Roland, Manitoba in 1913.

After the show, these people had to be accommodated. It was by this time 11 p.m. but they were loaded on the buses, taken into the country and billeted out among the local 4-H families. It was the biggest gathering of 4-H that had occurred in Alberta to date. In attendance were around 3,000 of Alberta's 9,000 club members.

The whole affair was organized and promoted by the Edmonton Regional 4-H Council, and carried through by club

leaders, members and parents. It left a lasting impression with those who were fortunate enough to be there.

During the past few years, the boys have invaded at least one territory that was considered strictly for girls. Since 1940 the girls had reigned as queens of the garden, but in 1962 it was decided that the boys should no longer be banned from this Eden.

So in 1962, the girls' garden clubs became garden-horticulture clubs, and in that first year a total of 74 boys enrolled. Revised and combined projects were made available to both boys and girls in a graded system starting at the first year and progressing to fourth year and up. These clubs remained under the jurisdiction of the district home economists but the district agriculturists were called on to assist. The garden-horticulture clubs proved very popular and provided a splendid opportunity for training of both boys and girls in horticulture, landscaping, food preservation and storage.

In 1964, multi-project clubs were introduced to allow a community with a sparse rural population to amalgamate 4-H project interest groups and form a single club. Also in 1964, award trips for leaders were established for the first time. Those named were selected on the basis of their record of achievement in leadership.

Four leaders — Don Berg, Millicent; Russel Sterling, Westlock; Colin Fraser, Leduc; Clarence Baker, New Norway, were named to attend the seventh Western Canada Farm Safety Conference. Expenses of the trip were assumed by the Line Elevators Farm Service. In addition to recognition, leaders gained new ideas in safety for use in their clubs.

Ten leaders were also sponsored to the Montana State 4-H Congress by the Calgary Power Ltd. and Canadian and Northland Utilities Ltd. They were Mrs. John Evjen, Stony Plain; John Moore, Tofield; Herman Grosfield, Brooks; Art Avison, Ponoka; Allan Shenfield, Spruce Grove; Mrs. Albert Paul, Namao; Ken Edgerton, Beaverlodge; Robert Bunbury, Alliance; Mike Achymichuk, Waskatenau; Mrs. Edna Tremblay, St. Paul.

But in spite of greater dependence on local leadership as the years went by, district agriculturists and home economists

LEADER IN COMMUNITY LIFE

4-H COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4-H CLUB LEADER

ASSISTANT 4-H LEADER

ADULT COMMITTEE

4-H PROJECT DEMONSTRATOR

ADULT IN 4-H

RESULTS IN WILLINGNESS,
ACCOMPLISHMENT, SATISFACTION

LEADS TO CONFIDENCE
AND EFFECTIVENESS

INCREASES INFLUENCE
AND UNDERSTANDING

DEVELOPS
POTENTIAL

CREATES
INTEREST

PROVIDES
ORIENTATION

JUNIOR LEADER IN 4-H

4-H CLUB PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE MEMBER

4-H MEMBER

LADDER OF *Leadership*
DEVELOPMENT

through the



4-H Program



CANADIAN COUNCIL
ON
4-H CLUBS



Leadership Award

Presented to MR. E. SMALE of ECKVILLE
in recognition of 5 years of Leadership in 4-H Club Work

Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs

Frank E. Wolff
PRESIDENT

James D. Moore
SECRETARY MANAGER



P. J. Hillman
CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION
S. J. Macdon
PROVINCIAL SUPERVISOR

PROVINCE OF *Alberta*
DATED *February 26, 1954*

Leadership



*4-H Club Leaders' Conferences
Olds and Vermilion*

continued their responsibility for organization and supervision of the 4-H clubs. During 1965, district agriculturists attended 1,647 4-H functions and visited 2,892 farm homes regarding 4-H and junior activities. In addition, home economists in that year attended 796 4-H functions and recorded 399 4-H home visits. To forestall any suggestion that the home economists were not as deeply involved in 4-H work as were the agriculturists, we have to remember that in 1964 there were only 20 home economists in the field compared with 59 district agriculturists. Both spent a great deal of time in the interests of the rural young people of Alberta.

But the leader is now the corner stone of 4-H activity. Leaders are accepting more and more responsibility and taking on more of the work with young people that was formerly done by the district agriculturist and home economist. More leadership training and out-of-the-province trips are among the incentives offered.

In the beginning most clubs had one leader. Today, the objective is to have a number of people involved. Instead of having one leader in a club the use of individual project leaders is encouraged. This allows allocation of responsibility so that one person does not have to carry too heavy a load. With over 500 4-H clubs in Alberta today, there are around 2,000 adults giving their time, talents and energy with their only remuneration that of seeing young people develop.

The year 1966 brought further change. Associated with the Department of Agriculture for nearly fifty years, Alberta 4-H Clubs were transferred to the newly created Department of Youth, of which on July 4, R. C. Clark was named Minister.

On July 7, 1966, C. L. Usher transferred from Supervision of 4-H Clubs to the post of Deputy Minister of the Department of Youth. But he did not long leave behind his 4-H staff associations, since on September 1 of that year, the 4-H Division came under the administration of his new department. There, in the Department of Youth, 4-H activities became part of an administration devoted to the welfare of all Alberta young people.

Transferred also to the Department of Youth were the Community Services and Athletic Division of the Provincial

Secretary's Department, and the Junior Forest Warden program of the Department of Lands and Forests.

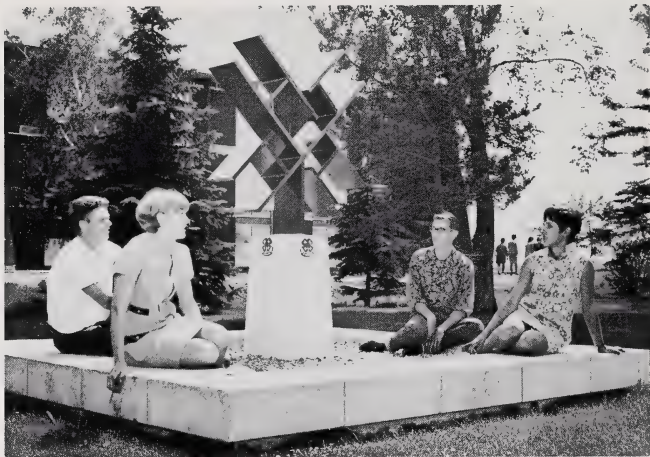
On February 1, 1967, M. H. Jaque relinquished his position as Principal of the Fairview Agricultural and Vocational College to become the first Director of the Department of Youth's 4-H and Junior Forest Warden Branch. Mr. Jaque obtained his B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta in 1942, and a Master of Education degree from Colorado State University in 1963. In 1957, he joined the Extension Service of the Alberta Department of Agriculture as assistant district agriculturist at Grande Prairie. He held appointments with the Extension Service at both Grande Prairie and High Prairie, and in July, 1964, became Principal of the Fairview College. In the early 1930's, he too was a member of grain, swine and calf clubs in charge of Supervisor G. S. Black and District Agriculturist W. J. Thomson.



M. H. Jaque

LOOKING AHEAD

Culmination of fifty years of 4-H in Alberta came on August 2, 1967, with Golden Anniversary celebrations at the Olds Agricultural and Vocational College. The program opened with a rendition of 'O Canada' by the Trochu District Band, and a parade of colours featuring present and past 4-H members. Those present were welcomed by C. L. Usher, Deputy Minister, Alberta Department of Youth.



Cairn at Olds — Commemorating 50 years of 4-H.

In his commemorative address, S. S. Graham, Director of Extension, Alberta Department of Agriculture, remarked that it was appropriate that this site had been selected for the cairn and for the commemorative program. It was fitting not only because the first club in Alberta received its start here associated with this institution, he said, but also because the institution had had a very close and intimate relationship with the 4-H program.

"Another reason it is particularly appropriate", he continued, "is that the staff of this institution as well as the other colleges have throughout their history been very closely associated with

4-H. If it had not been for an institution like this, and the type of program and staff they had, certainly much of the progress might not have been made that has been made."

The cairn was unveiled by W. S. Elliott, son of W. J. Elliott, who as first Principal of the School of Agriculture at Olds, had started in 1917 the first Junior Club in Alberta. "It is very fitting", said Chairman Merv. Jaque, "that the late Mr. Elliott's son, Bill Elliott, be with us today to pull the cord and unveil this cairn commemorating fifty years of 4-H". Following the unveiling, Mr. Elliott expressed his appreciation of "this honour accorded the Elliott family".

The cairn unveiling was followed by the planting of a young tree by Lawrence Fisher, a member of that first Junior Club, and John Robinson of Springbank, a present member and a major award winner. And at this time the following was read by another major award winner, Werner Wennekamp of Lloydminster:



John Robinson and Lawrence Fisher, (May this tree symbolize growth of the 4-H Movement).

It is fitting at this time that we should look to the future as well as the past. The small tree that we are now about to plant and dedicate shall grow in size and strength in the years to come. It is our wish that this tree may symbolize

the growth of the 4-H movement in its aim to serve more young people in a better way. As the tree grows so shall 4-H.

Turning the sod to plant this tree are Mr. Fisher of Olds, a member of Alberta's first 4-H club and John Robinson of Calgary, a present 4-H member. May these two men symbolize the need for co-operation among youth and adult for continued growth of character and principles of the generations to come. May our tree grow tall, straight and proud; and for 4-H, may it continue to grow tall, straight and proud.

The cairn and tree were then dedicated by Father A. Laisnez, who himself had been a 4-H member and had attended Club Week here at Olds. Dedication was followed by a tribute to the future by Laura Pickels, winner in 1966 of the Premier's award for outstanding achievement in 4-H, who then led those assembled in the 4-H pledge.

In the course of his address, Mr. Graham spoke of the early school fairs that were directed from the Schools of Agriculture, and of their influence on the communities. He paid tribute to the district agriculturists, home economists and School of Agriculture staffs that kept the fairs and clubs going, and expressed appreciation of the support provided by the grain trade, banks and other organizations.

"I can think in terms of the district agriculturists that many long hours were spent and late nights, helping to organize 4-H clubs and seeing that they carried on", he said. "Associated with them were the club leaders and representatives of industry, some of whom are still sponsoring and have their representatives here today. I see some of the early district agriculturists here — Bert Whitbread, Alex Charnetski, Peter Wyllie, and Ev Birdsall, now Principal of this College".

Relating some of his personal experiences, Mr. Graham mentioned that in the early days of the clubs it was sometimes almost a three-ring circus. One of his earliest jobs with the Department of Agriculture was to judge plots during the summer and carry on achievement days during the winter. In those years, 1937-38-39, he would start out with one other member of



Early 4-H Workers at the 50th. Anniversary. L to R — B. J. Whitbread, C. Brinton, Mrs. G. Arnold (nee Margaret Fraser), P. Wyllie, Alex Charnetski, and Lawrence Fisher.

the staff in October and not get back off the road until the end of January when the grain club achievement days were over.

“We carried grain samples for judging competitions”, he said. “We had screens, because we would arrive at one of these achievement days and perhaps half might not have had a chance to screen their samples. So we had a set of screens there so that they could go hurriedly behind the scenes and get their samples up to standard at the last minute. Nevertheless, it helped to encourage some of these young people to go further.

“I used to carry a hand operated projector”, he related, “and often I would get more of an audience for the Mickey Mouse film which we usually carried than for some of the more serious topics. But that was just part of the sugar coating on our education and all necessary.

“Invariably at these achievement days”, he continued, “we would have one or two representatives of the grain companies go with us. They were always willing and ready to assist. One time I was working in the Barrhead district and we had to go across country at night to Sangudo. It was in November and a thaw had set in and there was water running everywhere. We were completely lost, and ended up around 2 a.m. at a gate with

pigs on the other side. There was a light across the field, so the representative of the Wheat Pool who was with me took off his shoes and rolled up his trousers, jumped into the water and over the fence and went to the light. 'You are on the right road', he said when he got back. 'All you have to do is to open the gate, but don't let the pigs out, and you are on the road for Sangudo'".

Mr. Graham paid tribute to the club leaders and spoke of the support from local organizations. Most of them were willing to help if given a job to do, he said. He told of an instance at Lethbridge while he was down there as district agriculturist. The local Kiwanis Club put up \$2,000 for clubs in the Lethbridge district and they said that if more was needed there was more where that came from. They would supply their cars and visit calves and plots around the country. They were business people but they were willing to help wherever they could — and this is typical throughout the country.

"I am suggesting that 4-H as it now stands didn't come about because of one person, one agency, one department or one government", Mr. Graham said. "It came about by a combination of the effort and interest of many people."

He spoke of the population explosion and of his belief that the scientist and the farmer together would be able to cope with the problem of food supply. Of the ability of the people of the world to work together in harmony he was not so sure, but he hoped that the efforts of 4-H young people would have a far reaching influence in this direction.

In the course of his address, Hon. R. C. Clark, Minister of Youth, mentioned that there are something like nine thousand 4-H club members in Alberta and some two thousand dedicated adults who give of their time. Across Canada there are close to seventy thousand members, he said, and four and a half million around the world.

Mr. Clark spoke of the changes that had taken place in 4-H during the past 50 years, and of the challenge facing young people today. He mentioned that his family had long been associated with 4-H, and that he had had the good fortune to be a member.

"I went to National Club Week in 1954, thanks to District Agriculturist Stan Pettem", he said, "so have some sort of appreciation of what 4-H means to the members. We look at 4-H as a family program, and members of many families have been involved for a number of years".



Hon. R. C. Clark, Minister of Youth, 4-H 50th. Anniversary.

In his reference to the changes that had occurred in the program during the past 50 years, Mr. Clark suggested how interesting it would be to come back in another 50 years and note the progress then. He mentioned too the challenges facing young people today and paid tribute to the Wheat Pool, U.G.C., and others for their early interest and assistance in the movement.

The evening activities featured a banquet at which many people were honoured who had worked for the cause of 4-H over the years, and a pageant in which 50 years of 4-H were depicted.

And ideas over the years have changed indeed. The clubs are no longer considered as an implement to foster agriculture. The boy or girl is now considered of prime importance. 4-H training is in the development of boys and girls, advises C. L.

Usher, Deputy Minister of the Alberta Department of Youth. While most of the projects still have an agricultural orientation, more emphasis continues to be placed on development of the boy and girl to fit them into today's society.

Seventy or eighty per cent are going to leave the farm. The training that will be most useful to the majority will be in such things as development of leadership and responsibility, decision making, citizenship and qualities of business management. Mr. Usher stressed that while you can develop responsibility and business management by giving a boy a calf and having him raise and sell it, the calf is merely a means through which these attributes might be developed.

Other qualities sought in 4-H training are tolerance and understanding, co-operation and ability to work with others, ability to express oneself, to obtain a broader understanding of what it is to be a Canadian, and to accept responsibility not only as citizens of Canada but of the world.

But this is not a sudden change. It has long been recognized that the boy or girl is more important than the calf or grain plot. It means only that no longer may agriculture be the only channel through which development may progress. Projects other than agricultural would appear in the offing; the young people off the farm may be gathered into the 4-H fold with such projects as junior leadership, career exploration, electronics, leatherwork, woodwork, camera or small engine clubs. Already the light horse clubs are showing promise; and while the first suggestion that they be included in 4-H was vetoed as being non-agricultural, they are now proving extremely popular. A tractor club was started at Innisfail last year, and two automotive clubs at Edson and Leduc.

Fifty years of 4-H in Alberta have come and gone; the fiftieth anniversary of 4-H coinciding with the one-hundredth anniversary of Canada. To commemorate both, a medallion was struck by the Alberta Department of Youth and distributed to 4-H members and dedicated adults throughout Alberta.

And now 4-H looks to the future, and new channels are being explored through which the qualities of the 4-H pledge may be still further developed:

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living,
for my club, my community
and my country.



ASSISTANCE WITH THE 4-H PROGRAM

As well as assistance from the Alberta and Canada Departments of Agriculture and the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests, several organizations are contributing to 4-H. Among them are the Alberta Wheat Pool, the United Grain Growers, the Federal Grain Company, the National Grain Company, Northwest Nitro-Chemical, the Canadian Seed Growers Association, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Edmonton Journal, the Calgary Herald, Canadian Utilities, Northland Utilities Limited, Calgary Power and the T. Eaton Company.

Others include Canadian Sugar Factories Limited, Cornwall Canning Company, Alberta Women's Institute, Imperial Oil, British American Oil, the Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer Exhibition Associations, Canada Packers and the Meat Packing Industry.

Assistance is also provided by the breed associations, the Hereford, Shorthorn, and Aberdeen Angus breeders; together with the Alberta Dairymen's Association, the Guernsey Breeders and the Holstein-Friesen Association. Some organizations are now inviting 4-H members as guests to their conventions. The Dairymen's Association have done this for some time, but among others are the Western Stock Growers Association, the Alberta Locker Association and the Alberta Provincial Hog Producers.

Scholarships are provided by the Canadian National Exhibition, the Alberta Wheat Pool, the Wheat Board Surplus Monies Trust Fund, and the J. Pennington Trust Fund.

Then at the local level, substantial support is offered by service clubs, boards of trade, agricultural societies, women's groups and others. Personal as well as financial assistance is evident in most communities. The value of 4-H in the life of the community and the nation is widely recognized. Offers of help are received continually from numerous sources, all ready and anxious to foster development of youth through this worthwhile 4-H activity.

4-H STAFF

L. T. Chapman.....	Supervisor	1922-24
L. B. Thomson.....	Supervisor	1925
J. W. Howe.....	Supervisor	1926
S. G. Carlyle.....	Supervisor	1927-28
G. S. Black.....	Supervisor	1929-34
		1946-56
S. H. Gandier.....	Supervisor	1935-36
		1941-44
W. J. Elliott.....	Supervisor	1937-40
F. N. Miller.....	Supervisor	1945
Miss M. K. Fraser.....	Supervisor Girls' Clubs	1942-54
C. L. Usher.....	Assistant Supervisor	1949-56
	Supervisor	1956-66
D. Stelfox.....	Regional Supervisor	
	(Camrose)	1953-55
Miss Priscilla Mewha.....	Assistant Supervisor	1954-61
Miss Dorothy Olsen.....	Junior Supervisor	1954-56
R. H. Cooper.....	Regional Supervisor	1955-56
	Assistant Supervisor	1956-57
V. T. Janssen.....	Associate Supervisor	1957-64
Miss Nancy Pasochnik.....	Assistant Supervisor	1957-60
J. Charnetski.....	Assistant Supervisor	1958-59
S. Fraser.....	Assistant Supervisor	1960-64
Mrs. R. Stevenson.....	Assistant Supervisor	1960-61
Miss Pat Adamson.....	Assistant Supervisor	1961-62
Mrs. Louise Macquire.....	Associate Supervisor	1962-64
Miss Glenna Robins	Assistant Supervisor	1963-67
R. Gilmour.....	Associate Supervisor	1965-66
Miss Joan Banta.....	Assistant Supervisor	1965-66
A. Malone	Assistant Supervisor	1965-
L. McNichol	Associate Supervisor	1966-
Miss Judy Murta.....	Assistant Supervisor	1966-
Miss Lida Rees.....	Assistant Supervisor	1967
R. T. Youck.....	Supervisor	1967-
M. H. Jaque.....	Director, 4-H and	
	Junior Forest Wardens	1967-

N.L.C. - B.N.C.



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